FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 005 *8 January 1981*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT/SALT/MBFR

'Realistic' Arms Policies Urged on Reagan [Larionov in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Jan] AA 1
Weinberger Stand on SALT II, Arms Agreement Cited AA 3
U.S. Stockpiling of Fissionable Materials Viewed AA 4

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Future of Detente, International Relaxation Viewed [Ovchinnik] CC 1
Zhukov Remarks on West's Third World Policy Noted CC 2
Persian Gulf Linked to Imperialism, Iran, Iraq [Kadymbekov in IZVESTIYA 4 Jan] CC 3
Geneva Deliberations on Namibian Question Begins CC 6

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Christopher Departure for Algerian Talks Reported A 1
U.S., Israel Reach 'Deal' on Liberty Incident [Kurdyumov in PRAVDA 4 Jan] A 1
New Agriculture Secretary Cited on Grain Embargo [Andrianov] A 2
Levchenko Examines 'New Republican Team' [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 3 Jan] A 2
Muskie-Brzezinski Friction Depicts Unstable Policy [Sturua in IZVESTIYA 3 Jan] A 4

CHINA

Commentary on Senator Stevens' Beijing Visit [Glebov] B 1
Western Media Cited on Eclipse of Hua Guofeng [PRAVDA 3 Jan] B 2
Political Observer on Trial of Jiang Qing [Yakovlev] B 2
RENMIN RIBAO View of PRC Peace Policy Attacked [Bulantsev] B 3

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan Seeking To Establish 'Tutorship' Over ASEAN [Kharkov] C 1
PRAVDA: U.S., PRC To Continue To Pressure Tokyo [Vdovin, 3 Jan] C 2

SOUTH ASIA

DRA Reaffirms Readiness for Peaceful Settlement D 1
U.S. Reaction [Kozyakov] D 1
Commentary on Proposal D 2
Ilinskiy Views DRA Normalization, Trust in Karmal [NOVOYE VREMYA No 52] D 3

EASTERN EUROPE

Commentary Views Antisocialist Forces in Poland F 1
PZPR's Fiszbach Says Party Trying To End 'Chaos' F 1
Polish Army Paper Cited on Unwanted 'Concern' F 2
[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 1 Jan]
Polish-Soviet Friendship Society Session Reported F 3
Importance of Ties F 3
RUDE PRAVO Denial on Basque Terrorists Cited F 3
Hungarian Aide Pulai Comments on 1981-85 Plan F 4
[SOTIALISTCHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 23 Dec]
Honecker's Look at New Year Prospects Reported F 6
[PRAVDA 1 Jan]

WESTERN EUROPE

Giscard d'Estaing Backs Continued Dialogue G 1
[PRAVDA 4 Jan]
Springer Press 'Lamentations' on Poland Viewed G 1

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Nabavi Remarks on Hostages, Release Terms Noted H 1
Lebedeva Condemns U.S. Pressure Against Iran H 1
Commentary on Kissinger's Visit to Middle East H 2
Remarks in Jerusalem [Novikov] H 2
Purpose of Visit [Zlatorunskiy] H 3
Kapralov Article [IZVESTIYA 6 Jan] H 4
Superpower Rivalry Theory in Mideast Disputed H 5

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Lopez Portillo Meeting Shows L. American Priority [Chigir] K 1
Reagan's Statements on El Salvador Criticized [Mashkin] K 1
Growth of Cuban Sugar Industry Viewed K 2
[PRAVDA 1 Jan]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Grishkyavichus Speech at Lithuanian Party Plenum R 1
[SOVETSKAYA LITVA 25 Nov]
Bagramov Hails Leninist Nationalities Policy R 11
[IZVESTIYA 31 Dec]
Armenian KGB Chief Hits West's 'Tactical Ruses' R 14
[Yerevan KOMMUNIST 20 Dec]
Solomentsev Presents RSFSR Art, Literature Prizes R 15
[PRAVDA 27 Dec]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Further Brezhnev Greetings on Plan Fulfillments S 1
Lebedinskoye Mining Combine [PRAVDA 3 Jan] S 1
Cherepovets Steel Plant [PRAVDA 5 Jan] S 1
Romanov on Leningrad Industry's Upcoming Tasks S 2
[LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Dec]
Siberian River Transportation Problems Examined S 4
[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 3 Jan]
Shibayev, Novikov at Ministry Collective Meeting [TRUD 31 Dec] S 4

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Yepishev Addresses Transbaykal Conference V 1
[Moroz in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Dec]

"REALISTIC' ARMS POLICIES URGED ON REAGAN

LD071357 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Maj Gen Prof V. Larionov, doctor of historical sciences: "Grave Heritage: Outgoing U.S. Administration's Military Policy"]

[Text] U.S. military policy, particularly in postwar years, is characterized by the following functional dependence. Each new administration inherits a military program and military strategy based on long-term capital investments and the goals and ideas common to the ruling class.

What heritage in this sphere is Reagan's Republican administration encountering?

It is well known that J. Carter took office as president under conditions when the "post-Vietnam syndrome" was still making itself felt to the full in the country, when the burden of internal economic and social problems was forcing the government to weigh up each of its foreign policy steps. Under the pressure of these and other factors the Carter administration began its activity with widely advertized statements regarding a "radical revision" of domestic and foreign policy and with promises to amend the military program and the military budget and develop a "new strategy." All these steps, the President and his closest aides ambitiously asserted, should help to acquire new friends and allies and strengthen U.S. "national security" and "strategic stability" in the world.

If we analyze Washington's policy over the past 4 years its total unsoundness becomes obvious. In actual fact U.S. economic and political positions in the world have not strengthened but weakened and anti-imperialist feelings have appeared everywhere even more clearly.

The United States' "national security" has not become any more stable and its relations with its allies have been exacerbated as a result of the unprecedented buildup and improvement of armaments and the refusal to ratify the SALT II treaty. In relations with the Soviet Union the United States embarked on a path leading to confrontation, which gravely disrupted international stability.

By the end of the President's term of office the promise to reduce military expenditure by 5-7 percent has ended up as a further increase in this expenditure. While the Pentagon budget for 1977 totalled $130.2 billion, for 1981 it has been approved at the unprecedented sum of $171.5 billion. The new 5-year program announced by J. Carter at the end of 1979 provides for a 4-5 percent increase in real terms in the annual military expenditure growth rates. And this is nothing other than the materialization of the course toward continuing the arms race.

As for specific military programs, here the Carter administration emphasized the intensification of the so-called "counterforce" potential of strategic armaments and what may be termed the most provocative and destabilizing systems. These include primarily the accelerated development of the MX mobile strategic missile and the Trident I and Trident II submarine system and ground- and air-launched cruise missiles, with carrying functions. All these systems that are being created are more accurate and mobile, which is intended to increase the U.S. strategic forces' capability to deal a first, "disarming" strike.

In this respect special mention must be made of the so-called "Eurostrategic" weapons and in particular the Pershing II missiles, the decision on whose deployment has been imposed by the U.S. Government on the European NATO countries. The appearance of these missiles on West European territory is aimed at undermining the principle of equilibrium of forces and equal security in relations with the USSR adopted by the Nixon-Ford Republican administration. [paragraph continues]

Being essentially, in tactical and technical terms, strategic weapons, the Pershing II missiles deployed close to the borders of the socialist community force the USSR to take relevant steps in the interests of safeguarding its own security and the security of its friends.

In 1977 the eminent scientist G. Kisiakowsky, who once held the post of assistant to the U.S. President for science and technology, drew attention to the fact that "throughout the history of the arms race the United States has been the first to introduce the majority of technical innovations and new weapons systems." Under the Carter administration the development of offensive nuclear weapons systems was given the greatest impetus. And this naturally increases the likelihood of war being unleashed. If only because as a result of some temporary technical lead over a "potential enemy" Pentagon figures may form the illusion of military technical superiority with the temptation to use it as soon as possible in order "not to waste time."

The modernization of old models of military equipment was also proceeded rapidly in the arms race spurred on by the Carter administration. Big orders have been compiled and placed for the production of new tanks, guns, ships, aircraft and helicopters....

In 4 years the United States has increased by 6 percent the numbers of its armed forces stationed in Europe and has sent new types of guided missiles and other armaments there. A buildup of the U.S. military presence has also occurred in east Asia and the Near and Middle East. And each time this has been accompanied by the creation of an explosive atmosphere. Washington's expansionist policy has also led to the stoking of tension in other parts of the world.

The United States has been particularly active militarily in the Indian Ocean basin recently. Back in November 1979 two aircraft carrier groups were deployed there. Recently one more aircraft carrier--the Independence--arrived there. Since April 1980 an amphibious group with a marine battalion on board (1,800 men) has been stationed permanently in the Indian Ocean, with its base center on the island of Diego Garcia. In addition the U.S. military presence has been increased in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Somalia. All this leads to the fueling of tension and is fraught with the danger of the outbreak of military conflicts.

Strategy is an important component of military policy. As is well known, each new U.S. administration has in the past announced its own so-called "national security" strategy. The Carter administration was no exception in this respect. The difference was merely that it renounced resounding labels like the "flexible response" or "realistic deterrence" strategy and, taking into account the experience of its predecessors, decided not to make public all aspects of the new strategy. "Out of political considerations," Z. Brezezinski, the U.S. President's assistant for national security, said, "we cannot announce our strategy in all its details." This fact was immediately assessed by the press as a double gamble. A hand in a "velvet glove," as Defense Secretary H. Brown put it, could be extended to the public and a "potential enemy," but friends and enemies should feel the firmness of the hand inside this glove. In other words, it was immediately understood that the U.S. Government, in addition to its declared trumps, has some other, secret, trumps and plans, and they are very tough. Incidentally, from time to time, with a view to blackmail and threats, these secret plans have deliberately been leaked to the open press. The notorious Directive 59, made public selectively in the administration's dying days, can serve as a graphic example.

What new elements did the Carter administration introduce into U.S. strategy from its first official document (Presidential Directive 18 in 1977) to Directive 59?

If we sum up all the innovations in this sphere, their novelty turns out to be highly relative. Nonetheless there is something worthy of attention in the field relating to methods of using military force. Taking into account the suicidal danger of unleashing an unlimited nuclear war, the Carter administration counted on the "limited," selective use of nuclear weapons. [paragraph continues]

Noisy publicity was given to this allegedly "humane" idea. In fact the idea of selective strikes at targets contains a highly provocative, dangerous intent: raising nuclear weapons' "usability" coefficient in order not to doom to inactivity the colossal nuclear potential which has been accumulated but rather to make it a more effective instrument of policy.

In connection with the publication of Directive 59 some commentators are directly pointing out that the function of supporting U.S. foreign policy invested in the nuclear forces requires that the President should have the opportunity "at his own initiative to be the first to use these forces for purposes of coercion." It is clear to everyone that if weapons become a more easily usable instrument of policy then the likelihood of their utilization increases sharply and consequently so does the danger of a war being unleashed by the United States. There is more. The initiative in using nuclear weapons in the present-day situation can be taken only by the side which believes it has substantial military superiority guaranteeing it against any retaliatory strike from its opponent or allowing a strike with "acceptable damage." The course toward military superiority which the Carter administration in fact adopted means a blatant deviation from the agreed bases of relations between the USSR and the United States.

As for the talk about the "humaneness" of a "limited" nuclear war and the fact that it could allegedly become an alternative to a world war, it is hypocritical, to say the least. They are aimed at lulling the peoples' vigilance and instilling in them the idea of the possibility of a limited nuclear exchange if the United States unleashes war by means of selective strikes or the use only of tactical nuclear weapons. In reality the creators of Directive 59 themselves scarcely believe that. "There is no way to be sure that the first use of nuclear weapons, irrespective of how selective their targets are, will not lead to escalation to the level of the exchange of unlimited nuclear strikes." These are the words of none other than U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown.

As we can see, the military policy of the outgoing Carter administration and its declarations and practical steps have not only failed to promote the consolidation of world stability but on the contrary have markedly undermined it and aggravated the world situation. The Carter administration is now trying to shift this grave heritage onto the shoulders of the Republican administration which is taking over from it. Relying on the support of certain influential circles, it is seeking an even greater increase in the already record military expenditure, the further spurring on of militarist preparations and the fueling of the international atmosphere.

Much of the pernicious activity undertaken in the sphere of U.S. military policy over the past 4 years is organically inherent in the actual socioeconomic system of U.S. imperialism. However, ultimately military programs, military appropriations and strategic doctrine are determined by political decisions. To break the pernicious and dangerous circle of the arms race and the strategy of threats and aggressive actions, realistic, wise political decisions and the search for real paths to peace and mutual understanding are needed. The new Republican administration is faced with the selection of these crucial decisions. Time will tell which path it will choose.

WEINBERGER STAND ON SALT II ARMS AGREEMENT CITED

LD071746 Moscow TASS in English 1639 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Washington, 8 Jan, TASS--Hearings have opened at the Senate Armed Services Committee in connection with endorsement of the candidature of Caspar Weinberger to the post of defense secretary. The American press draws attention to Weinberger's pronouncements on the report of the committee about the SALT II treaty in which, contrary to the well-known state of affairs, it was asserted that the USSR gain from the treaty more than the United States.

Weinberger has said that the United States should press for an agreement on control over armaments with the Soviet Union that would be more advantageous to the United States than the SALT II treaty. He also said that at least six months would be required before the new U.S. administration shall be able to formulate its stand as to negotiations on limitation of strategic armaments.

Motivating his approach, Weinberger actually admitted that the Pentagon intends to use this period of six months' deferment to get down to a further build-up of the nuclear missile and conventional armaments' race under the pretext of "bridging the gap" that allegedly arose between the United States and the USSR in the military sphere. This false thesis was repeatedly used in the past by the U.S. military-industrial complex to justify a sharp build-up of the military expenditures.

Caspar Weinberger also said that the Reagan administration "should reaffirm" the obligations in defending the "vital interest" of the United States in the Persian Gulf area. He pointed out that the U.S. obligations in that region, given by the Carter administration, have not been substantiated by proper forces and means to carry them through. He said that the new administration intends to take urgent steps to ensure compliance with the obligations of the United States in the Persian Gulf area. Preservation of American Armed Forces in that region will be required for this, said the future head of the Pentagon.

U.S. STOCKPILING OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS VIEWED

LD080816 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] New York, 8 Jan, TASS--The United States began implementing an extensive programme of stockpiling fissionable materials for the warheads of nuclear missiles. The SCIENCE magazine reports that the Carter administration resolved to commission the nuclear reactors at the Savannah River (South Carolina) and Richland (Washington State) test ranges, which had been mothballed earlier. This makes possible a 67 percent increase in the production of plutonium and tritium. New nuclear reactors are to be built.

The American press connects this programme, for which Congress has already allocated 112 million dollars, with the forthcoming arming of the United States forces with new types of nuclear missiles including MX, Trident and cruise missiles, and also with the plan for an overall increase in the numbers of nuclear warheads in the next several years.

The decision on the stockpiling of fissionable materials has aroused widespread anxiety in America. The SCIENCE magazine reports that, in the opinion of supporters of limiting strategic arms, it essentially disowns Washington's commitments to promote the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and will step up the nuclear arms race.

FUTURE OF DETENTE, INTERNATIONAL RELAXATION VIEWED

LD072300 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Vsevolod Ovchinnik commentary]

[Text] At the start of this new year the press in many countries, Britain among them, have been discussing the future of detente, the process of international relaxation. Who is to blame for the worsening of the international situation and will relaxation survive in these conditions? The answers to these questions it seems to me concern not just the politicians but every one of us. Relaxation has been in jeopardy ever since Washington's approach to major political problems began to be governed once again by imperial ambitions. Moreover, Washington's turnabout from relaxation to confrontation had a definite anti-Soviet edge to it.

Yet at the same time it was prompted not only by a desire to gain military superiority over the Soviet Union. From the President's message to Congress in which the notorious Carter doctrine was formulated it is evident that the United States seeks to assert its international role in the world, but whom does it seek to lead? The doctrine declares a clear intention for achieving a fuller subordination of its allies, Western Europe and Japan. The idea is to prevent the shifting balance of economic strength from depriving the United States of its supremacy in the capitalist world.

In Washington it is evidently thought that in an atmosphere of East-West confrontation it is easier to bring junior partners to heel, to keep them from acting on their own. Atlantic solidarity can in this case be used as a pretext to lay down the law for them. The first victims of this maneuver have been America's NATO partners. A mere year ago when they were being pressed to accept the new American medium-range missiles the Europeans were told that this would supposedly facilitiate SALT II ratification in the United States Senate, and that in turn would pave the way to SALT III and to scale down the level of military confrontation in Europe. But instead of the promised ratification there came Presidential Directive No 59, and from it the West European public were forced to draw the scarcely consoling conclusion that the American idea of limited nuclear war meant limiting such a conflict to Europe.

This has thrown a new and sinister light on the purpose of the American medium-range nuclear missiles. Their purpose is clearly two-fold: to move the means of a preemptive strike closer to Soviet borders and to provide a lightning rod that would divert retaliation from American territory. To protect the United States at the price of reducing Europe to ashes, that is how an Italian senator summed up Directive 59.

Furthermore, the allies are being made to pay for America's resumption of its role of worldwide policeman and for the expansion of the American military presence in the world, especially at the approaches to the oil of the Middle East. Last year the United States sharply increased its pressure on Western Europe and Japan to make them boost their military budgets. America's junior partners are being told to step into the breach formed as a result of the fact that the Pentagon has built up a mailed police fist in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. This implies an indirect if not direct extension of the sphere of operation of NATO and the American-Japanese security treaty, an attempt to tie the allies still more tightly to the United States' military adventures.

Finally, Washington seems to have a third reason, too, for whipping up of war hysteria, which in turn stimulates the arms race and hinders mutual beneficial East-West cooperation. The motive is to make Western Europe and Japan less competitive on the world markets by involving them in ruinous and senseless military expenditures. This would deprive them of their advantages in trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union, a field in which the United States has fallen far behind other capitalist countries.

Just now the Soviet Union's traditional trading partners are taking a big interest in the prospects of doing business with it as it embarks on its new 11th 5-Year Plan. Significantly, at this very moment the outgoing Carter administration has raised a hysterical and provocative fuss, claiming that developments in Poland somehow threaten NATO's security. This was the idea the United States sought to foist on its partners at the NATO session in Brussels recently. And since this implied a Soviet military threat in Europe, trade with the Soviet Union and especially long-term agreements on Soviet oil and gas supplies were made out to be a dangerous trap.

The record of the past year shows clearly that attempts to apply economic and many other sanctions to the Soviet Union are senseless. Despite American pressure, the trade between the developed capitalist countries and the Soviet Union, far from shrinking, has grown substantially.

ZHUKOV REMARKS ON WEST'S THIRD WORLD POLICY NOTED

LD072022 Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] The times of world empires have long passed but not those of imperial ambitions, especially in United States foreign policy. A striking example of that is the so-called Carter doctrine. Another is the over-all Third World strategy being evolved by the United States for the whole Western alliance. The strategy's chief goal is to suppress national liberation movements so as to keep the developing nations in the Western empire. By that means are this strategy's aims to be achieved? This question was answered recently by Yuriy Zhukov, one of the country's most prominent political observers. Here are the points he made:

One has to use military force to stamp out national liberation movements and the pretext as usual is that the Soviet Union is interfering in the affairs of the developing nations. The West understands full well that the sentiment for social change in the developing countries exists by itself. Nonetheless, Western news media keep talking about a Soviet threat to the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America and of the so-called vital interests of the capitalist nations on these continents. The sole purpose of this talk is to justify their own interference on a much grandiose scale. The newspaper New York TIMES said recently that Washington had come to the conclusion there was no place on Earth that was outside the sphere of American interests and that America needed a military potential that would be able to counteract violence at any level anywhere in the world. Several tactical moves have already been made to this end. Creation of the Rapid Deployment Force is one, the establishment of many new military bases around the world is another. There is also the vigorous attempts of conservative members of the American Congress to get repeal of the ban on subversive operations by the Central Intelligence Agency in Africa.

America's NATO allies are showing some envy of these actions. They too would like to control the natural resources of the developing nations. The Conservative Government of Britain, for one, objects to a back seat. On the 16th of last November the Paris based INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE quoted the Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, as saying that he foresaw difficulties in relations between America and its allies and that Europeans would do well to coordinate their collective diplomatic policy better so as to strengthen their positions in the dialogue with the incoming American administration. Where Lord Carrington failed to dot all the i's the newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES did it for him. In a lengthy article it outlined a plan of action taking shape in the British Foreign Ministry, a plan clearly intended to ensure that America does not boss the world alone but with its allies. What the Foreign Ministry recommends is setting up machinery to ensure the interference of the West in the affairs of the developing countries so as to prevent social trends undesirable to the United States and its allies. This most likely machinery, according to the authors of the plan, would be a body comprising Britian, France, the United States and Federal Germany. Japan would play the key role in Asia, and perhaps not only in Asia.

Australia and New Zealand would also have important roles in the area. Canada could play some sort of role in the Caribbean, so could Venezuela with its oil riches and possibly even Mexico. As other guarantors of regimes they would like to see unchanged, the authors of the plan name Italy and Saudi Arabia--Saudi Arabia as the main state in the Middle East.

Another program intended to serve as the framework for a new common strategy in the Third World has been drawn up by American and Japanese experts. According to the REUTER News Agency the group includes two former supreme commanders of the NATO forces in Europe and representatives of American and Japanese foreign policy bodies, including U. Alexis Johnson, who was United States under secretary of state during the war in Vietnam. The program of this group suggests having the annual summit meetings of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada discuss not only economic matters but political issues and security as well. The chief military recommendation is to set up what are called forces of restraint in the Middle East to carry out various missions on land and sea and in the air.

The one country capable of heading up this operation, the program says, is the United States. But, it says, the American Rapid Deployment Force must be augmented by the armed forces of France, West Germany, Britain, Canada and other NATO members and by Japan. Early in December Alexis Johnson visited Tokyo to discuss the plan with government officials. Western news media have said nothing about the outcome but the facts already known about the makeup of the group and its aims show that something very dangerous is shaping up. Seven capitalist nations are establishing a military machine in the Middle East. And apparently the Middle East is not the only area, judging by a speech delivered at the Canadian Club in Montreal by Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser of the United States President. Brzezinski talked of creating three strategic zones for action on plans of the United States and other capitalist nations which the United States is drawing into military cooperation. The three zones would be Europe, the Far East and southwest Asia. Brzezinski did admit, however that this was a very risky business, that some regimes in the developing countries on which the United States and its allies would like to rely were very unstable, while other states in the region had no intention whatever of getting involved in a system of new colonialist military machines.

So the strategy of ensuring so-called stability of the developing countries, now under discussion in Washington, London and Tokyo, raises more questions than it answers. But the very fact that such planning is under way shows what fear there is among the capitalist nations of the steady advance of national liberation movements.

PERSIAN GULF LINKED TO IMPERIALISM, IRAN, IRAQ

LD071601 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 81 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Z. Kadymbekov: "The Hot Waters of the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Laconic and sparse is the language of war reports from the theater of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. A mere few lines--but behind these lines lies the tragedy of two peoples. The undeclared war which began more than 3 months ago continues unabated.

Battles continue in the Iran's Khuzestan Province, the country's main oil region. The arteries supplying Tehran with fuel have been severed. The evergreen leaves of palm trees on the seaside boulevards of Khorramshah are gray with ash from the conflagration. Iranian guns and aircraft have made equally telling strikes on the Iraqi shore.

Battles are being waged at sea and in the air as well as on the ground. The gusty "shamal" carries the acrid smoke of war across the azure expanse of the Persian Gulf, across the coral reefs and deep lagoons.

The land is ravaged on both sides of the Shatt al-Arab border waterway, the oilfields are deserted and abandoned and the distillation plants are in flames. And this area, where the war is leaving its deepest traces of destruction, is where 90 percent of Iran's chief national wealth--oil--and 35 percent of Iraq's fuel resources is concentrated.

According to geographers, the Persian Gulf is the world's hottest stretch of water. In summer the surface temperature reaches 34 degrees Centigrade while on the shore it sometimes soars to 70 degrees. Today the Persian Gulf is the hottest part of the world both literally and figuratively. Its waters are literally seething, whipped into a lather by the screws of the American armada's warships. Washington has declared the Persian Gulf region a sphere of its "vital interests."

For centuries the Persian Gulf has been a magnet for colonial powers. Their struggle to possess the Gulf's natural resources and to exploit it as a very important military strategic region has lasted for centuries. Portuguese, Dutch, British, Germans and Americans--there has been a series of colonialists but the "divide and conquer" policy and predatory attitude toward other people's resources and land have remained unchanged down the years.

Today American imperialism, seeking to realize its aspirations to world domination, is making full use of colonialist methods and practice.

The United States sent a fleet to the Persian Gulf zone to hold on to its positions there. By intimidating his NATO partners with the prospect of an oil famine and demanding their participation in adventures Carter managed to get them interested in joint actions. The joint fleet currently fueling tension and making the region explosive numbers over 60 ships of various kinds--aircraft-carriers, guided missile destroyers, guided missile cruisers....

At the beginning of the military conflict between Iran and Iraq the U.S. administration declared its neutrality and called for an immediate peace settlement. But the mask of peacemaker was soon cast off. The talk about neutrality proved to be simply a bluff. In fact feverish efforts were being made to exploit the conflict for selfish ends. And the subsequent development of events showed that the conflict was simply another opportunity to build up the American military presence in the Persian Gulf zone.

The Western press tries to put the Iranian-Iraqi conflict down to mutual border claims in the area of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and contradictions between Shi'ites and Sunnis, Arabs and Persians. True, all these reasons exist. But why did the border quarrels develop into a protracted war exhausting for both sides and why now? There had been border disputes before between Iran on the one side and Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other. The continental shelf in the Gulf region was the bone of contention in 1963. Iran issued foreign companies with concessions to prospect for and work oil deposits on the shelf. Three littoral states protested. Talks began and it was 5 years before they ended with the signing of an agreement to divide the shelf. But although it was an acute issue there was no war.

There occurred many other border disputes, generally resolved at the negotiating table. This may have cost time and effort but it did not lead to war. At the time Western imperialist circles saw the presence of the littoral states' conservative monarchic regimes as impregnable fortress watching over the international monopolies' interests as well as their medieval sociopolitical institutions and with their tentacles probing deep into the oilfields of the Persian Gulf. But then the main bastion of what seemed only yesterday an impregnable fortress fell. The revolution swept everything Western out of Iran--oil companies and thousands of highly-paid American specialists. Yesterday a loyal U.S. vessel and gendarme of the region, Iran is now an enemy. Important positions were lost in Iran, and prior to that in Iraq, and the colonialists' foothold became precarious. Of course, they will not tolerate failures such as these and the loss of military bases, cheap oil and a profitable market for arms. In this situation the questions "who stands to gain from the war between Iran and Iraq? who is capable now of adding fuel to the fire?" inevitably arise.

Immediately after the failure of the operation to save the American hostages the United States began an even more vigorous buildup of armed forces in the Persian Gulf region for new armed adventures against Iran. According to Washington strategists' calculations, the Iranian-Iraqi conflict would help to weaken the forces of the Islamic revolution, divert Iraq's attention from confrontation with Israel and create prerequisites for direct armed interference in these countries' affairs.

The West quickly forgot what it had said about "neutrality" and its promises of "restraint." Apart from the massing of naval forces on the approaches to the Persian Gulf American bases in the Indian Ocean were placed in a state of combat readiness. U.S. naval forces and a British squadron held joint maneuvers off the coast of Iran in which more than 18,000 people participated. Four AWACS aircraft were sent to Saudi Arabia. The "Flying Radar" is the most expensive aircraft in the U.S. Air Force at the present time. In a combat situation it can act as an "air command center." Apparently, the Pentagon generals do not rule out a situation of this kind. A pretext for sending in the "winged spies" was found, of course: Their job was to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping and to protect U.S. allies, in this case Saudi Arabia.

This pretext was chosen in order to place in a state of combat readiness military bases in Oman which is situated to control the Strait of Hormuz which joins the Gulf to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Oman is the easiest place from which to watch over the narrow neck of the Gulf through which an oil-laden tanker passes on average every 10 minutes. Around 1 billion tons of liquid fuel is taken through the "Hormuz corridor" annually.

Oman's advantageous strategic position explains the Carter administration's friendship with the reactionary regime of Sultan Qabus. Washington got him to authorize the use of Al-Masirah Island as a base for U.S. Navy and Air Force units in the Indian Ocean. Moorings for submarines have been constructed in the bays of Al-Masirah. When the base on the island has been modernized it will be able to take heavy bombers. Al-Masirah has now become a strong point for the Rapid Deployment Force. In the current period of tension this bridgehead of militarism is aimed like a loaded pistol at the Persian Gulf.

At the same time as the naval maneuvers a dress rehearsal took place in the Egyptian desert for the notorious American Rapid Deployment Force which, together with Egyptian forces, carried out a quick run-through, in exercises codenamed "Bright Star," of tactics for waging war in climatic conditions similar to those found in the Persian Gulf zone.

Why such frantic haste in creating a joint fleet, carrying out maneuvers on land in Egypt and at sea off the Iranian coast and strengthening military bases in the Indian Ocean and placing them in a state of combat readiness? Why all this military show performed in accordance with a Pentagon scenario? It would be illogical to link it with "protecting U.S. vital interests," which is what Western propaganda tries to do. The war between Iran and Iraq has neither increased nor reduced supplies of "black gold" to the United States. As is known, not a single barrel of oil has gone from Iran to the United States since the revolution. And Iraqi oil constitutes only 0.8 percent of total American oil imports. Increased oil extraction in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates has gone a long way toward making up the deficit in imports to capitalist and developing countries.

One could talk of difficulties connected with transportation of oil in wartime from the Persian Gulf zone were it not for the fact that both the warring sides gave firm guarantees of safe passage for tankers. These guarantees are being strictly observed to this day.

The "defense of U.S. vital interests" thesis is used as a cover for other Washington actions and preoccupations in the Persian Gulf--an important strategic part of the world which, incidentally, is thousands of kilometers away from America. [paragraph continues]

A very rich field of "black gold" providing for 60 percent of the capitalist world's oil needs, has become the object of encroachments by imperialism, above all the United States which is worried by the profound sociopolitical changes in the independent countries of the region and the growth of anti-imperialist, anti-American sentiments. The desire to retrieve lost positions in Iran and in the Persian Gulf as a whole explains the current military fever. In the present situation the continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq suites U.S. imperialist circles. Washington is not moved by the death and destruction; indeed, the war provides imperialism with new opportunities for direct interference, for the establishment of hegemony and domination in the world's richest oil region.

There is another facet: The conflict is causing serious damage to the national liberation movement in the developing countries and the interests of Muslim and Arab states, weakening their unity and cohesion in the struggle against the Camp David deal participants. It is impossible to separate questions of Persian Gulf security from the encroachments of imperialism, from the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, from Israeli aggression against the Arab countries. All things here are interrelated, wound together in a tight knot. By kindling conflicts and sowing strife between states in the Near and Middle East the United States is drawing this knot even tighter, creating deadlock situations.

The proposals on eliminating the dangerous tension in the Persian Gulf formulated by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev during the Soviet-Indian talks made a broad, positive impact in many countries. While, the Aden paper ATH-THAWRI writes, U.S. imperialism builds up its number of military bases and tries to intimidate the peoples of the region with the mythical "Soviet threat," the Soviet Union is again demonstrating its firm will for peace and putting forward constructive proposals aimed at normalizing the Persian Gulf situation, ensuring peace and security in the area and eliminating seats of aggression.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's clear-cut, lucid, constructive and persuasive proposals show the correct and realistic way to ensure lasting peace in this explosive region.

GENEVA DELIBERATION ON NAMIBIAN QUESTION BEGINS

LD071142 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Geneva, 7 Jan, TASS--At the Palace of Nations here a conference on Namibia has opened. The conference is to elaborate a plan for the passage of Namibia, now under the colonial domination of the Republic of South Africa, to independence.

The conference, held under the U.N. aegis, is attended by a delegation of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), headed by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, and a delegation of the Republic of South Africa. Present at the conference as observers are representatives of the "front-line states", Nigeria, the Organization of African Unity and five Western countries (the USA, Britain and others).

Opening the conference, the U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expressed the hope that it will lead to a political settlement of the Namibian problem and an early attainment of independence by the people of that country.

The conference will deliberate till January 14 and will be held behind closed doors.

CHRISTOPHER DEPARTURE FOR ALGERIAN TALKS REPORTED

LD080816 Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Washington, 8 Jan, TASS--United States Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher once again flew to Algeria whose representatives are mediators in the discussion of the [word indistinct] of the American hostages, detained in Iran on charges of espionage. The State Department announced that he would meet with Algeria's foreign minister to discuss the problem of the hostages and the latest American replies to questions from the Iranian side.

Warren Christopher's journey was preceded by feverish conferences in Washington, involving President Jimmy Carter and others. The talks still rest on the position of the United States, which refuses to return the Iranian [word indistinct] frozen in American banks, and the wealth plundered by the former shah.

U.S., ISRAEL REACH 'DEAL' ON LIBERTY INCIDENT

LD071657 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 81 p 5

[Correspondent N. Kurdyumov dispatch: "The 'Liberty Affair' Again"]

[Text] Washington, 3 Jan--It is more than 13 years since Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats attacked and sank the U.S. intelligence ship Liberty near the Gulf of Sinai, causing the deaths of 34 crew members. Tel Aviv was forced to admit responsibility for what happened. Nonetheless it claimed that the American ship, supposedly in error, was taken for an Egyptian transport ship.

However, the investigation held shortly afterward by the official U.S. authorities revealed facts that clearly contradicted the Israeli claim. It was established that the Liberty had been in international waters and had clearly visible identification marks and that the Israeli attack was "unprovoked." However, strange though it may seem, neither right after the sinking of the Liberty nor later did official Washington show any desire to investigate the reason for the attack or even express doubts about the Israeli version of what happened. Moreover, together with Israel, the American authorities did everything possible to put an end to the Liberty affair and soft-pedal the business.

Now Israel's government has suddenly suggested to the outgoing Carter administration "closing the file" on the Liberty once and for all by reaching agreement on damages. The offer was greeted with complete understanding, and the deal that was concluded was learned of recently. Washington agreed to forget the Liberty affair in exchange for compensation of $6 million, although it had previously demanded $17 million.

However, counter to the authorities' hopes, the compensation deal has intensified American public suspicion regarding the facts of this fishy affair of 13 years ago. Too many questions are left unanswered for the matter to be regarded as closed, the Washington POST stated. Noting in an editorial that neither the Israeli nor the American Government showed any inclination to find out whether the attack on the Liberty was a mistake by Israel or a calculated cynical action against the United States, the paper writes that the details of the incident that have been publicized shed a sinister light on the attackers' motives.

The Washington POST is referring, in particular, to the testimony of (J. Ennis), a naval officer, now retired, who was wounded in the incident and who in a recent book entitled "The Attack on the Liberty" accused the official U.S. authorities of deliberately trying to cover up the facts so as not to cast doubt on Israel's version.

(Ennis) points out that shortly before the attack Israeli aircraft overflying the Liberty identified the American ship and the American flag and sent appropriate radio messages to shore. Using torpedoes, missiles and napalm in the attack, the book points out, the Israeli side not only pursued the aim of sinking the intelligence ship but also did everything possible to kill the crew members, stranding the survivors on their inflatable rafts.

NEW AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CITED ON GRAIN EMBARGO

LD080042 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 7 Jan 81

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Boris Andrianov]

[Text] The situation of many foreign agencies was attracted by the statement made by John Block. He had already been appointed secretary for agriculture in the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The question of his confirmation to this post is being examined at one of the Senate committees.

John Block spoke at a meeting of this committee. He said: the new Washington administration will reexamine the embargo on the delivery of grain to the Soviet Union introduced by Carter.

It is no secret that Ronald Reagan, too, in the course of his election campaign spoke against restrictions on the delivery of American grain to our country because the ban proved to be a double-edged weapon which hit U.S. farmers most of all.

In short, John Block's statement clearly admits that the economic blackmail undertaken against the Soviet Union by Jimmy Carter has completely failed.

LEVCHENCKO EXAMINES 'NEW REPUBLICAN TEAM'

LD080931 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Jan 81 p 3

[Dispatch by TASS correspondent Yu. Levchencko for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "The New Republican Team"]

[Text] Washington--The so-called transition period between the day of the presidential election early in November and the swearing in of the new administration on 20 January is a purely American phenomenon which noticeably enlivens U.S. political life. Once the riddle of who will win the election has been solved, commentators and political observers practically ignore the defeated president and concentrate all their attention on the new White House incumbent, attempting to predict the main lines of his foreign and domestic policy. They tend not to attach too much importance to the successful candidate's election speeches; experience has repeatedly shown that it is pointless to try and form a clear impression of a new administration's political ideas on the basis of these statements or even of the platform of its political party. The composition of the new administration is regarded as a much better yardstick.

The first appointments to the incoming Republican administration were announced on 11 December on Ronald Reagan's arrival in Washington from California. Unlike his predecessors, the president-elect chose not to announce them personally but to confine himself to publishing a list.

Reagan's long-time aide Caspar Weinberger, formerly vice president of the Bechtel Corporation Construction Company and secretary of health, education and welfare and director of the Office of Management and Budget in previous Republican administrations, was appointed secretary of defense. Donald Regan, prominent New York banker and head of Merrill Lynch, the largest U.S. brokerage firm, was made treasury secretary. The post of attorney general went to William Smith, R. Reagan's personal legal adviser and for many years his closest friend. William Casey, Reagan's election campaign manager, was appointed director of the CIA. Casey was an active U.S. intelligence officer who during World War II headed the secret service in the theater of hostilities under General Eisenhower. He went on to occupy a number of senior posts in Republican administrations, including that of director of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Other appointments are Senator Richard Schweiker (secretary of health and human services); Malcolm Baldridge (secretary of commerce), chairman of the Scovill Company; Drew Lewis (secretary of transportation), Pennsylvania businessman and deputy chairman of the Republican National Committee; and David Stockman (director of the Office of Management and Budget), a congressman from Michigan.

The announcement of who would be given the main cabinet post of secretary of state was expected to follow the same day. But this was prevented by formal complications: the main candidate--George Schultz, former secretary of labor and of the treasury in the Nixon administration--turned it down, and the candidacy of his "stand-in"--Gen Alexander Haig, former supreme commander, NATO Allied Forces, Europe--came up against strong opposition from Democratic senators because of his role in the Vietnam war and Watergate scandal.

Haig's supporters among the Republican leadership in the Senate urged Reagan not to give in to the Democrats and to stand firm. After wavering briefly, Reagan did as he was urged and Haig was appointed secretary of state on 16 December. Along with the Haig appointment Raymond Donovan, New Jersey businessman and long-time Reagan supporter, was appointed secretary of labor.

Press comment on the first appointments goes along with those observers who forecast that Reagan will move to the political center after taking office. Leading U.S. newspapers began to bristle with headlines about the predominance of "old Nixon staffers" in the cabinet and the incoming Republican administration's "centrist orientation." CBS correspondent Morton, an expert on U.S. political life, pointed out "the continuation of the old tradition of the Eastern establishment's dominance" in the U.S. administration, despite the fact that Reagan himself is a westerner. The new cabinet members, he writes, all hold "moderate conservative" views and do not represent "the extreme rightwing of the Republican Party."

Alexander Haig's appointment was the last in the formation of the so-called "inner cabinet"--the administration's main organ, designed to play a key role in the new administration and, in Reagan's words, "to be the most influential cabinet in the world." It comprises Secretary of State-designate A. Haig, Secretary of Defense-designate C. Weinberger, Treasury Secretary-designate D. Regan and Attorney General-designate W. Smith.

CBS correspondent William Plant regards Haig's appointment as evidence that the Reagan administration plans to make West Europe the focus of its foreign policy strategy. He points out that R. Reagan gave the fact that Haig "is well-versed in international affairs" and "has prestige among the leaders of the West European countries" as the main reasons for his choice. Washington POST commentator M. Getler attributes the choice to "fears that one fine day West Germany might find the idea of neutrality attractive, not least because of its frequent clashes with Washington." The new administration, he writes, and Haig in particular, will try to prevent this by abandoning the tactic of putting crude pressure on the West European allies, laying stress instead on their "persuasion and encouragement."

While differing in their assessments of the new secretary of state, observers are unanimous that Haig will play first fiddle in Reagan's cabinet and be in a dominating position in the eleaboration and implementation of the foreign policy strategy. The Washington POST points out that he will be the only member of Reagan's immediate entourage with considerable experience of working in the foreign policy sphere.

U.S. observers differ in their assessments of Haig's views on many international problems. Some, like commentator J. Kraft, regard Haig as "a major statesman with a broad strategic view of world problems." But the majority tend to regard the new secretary of state as a man who relies mainly on military force to solve international problems. In this connection some newspapers express alarm at the appointment of a person with undisguised militarist views to the highest U.S. diplomatic post. They point out that in the modern world diplomacy should be based on more than just military power and that it should "strive not only for confrontation in solving serious problems but also for compromise."

According to an AP report, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where hearings on the ratification of Haig's candidacy are to start, have taken the first steps toward obtaining tape recordings of conversations between Richard Nixon and Haig during the Watergate scandal held by the National Archives records service. It is significant that some Republicans are also demanding that these tapes be handed over. NBC Commentator R. Mudd pointed out that the hearings on Haig's appointment could be "a long and stormy process" and upset Reagan's plans for his cabinet to stark work immediately when he moves into the White House on 20 January.

MUSKIE-BRZEZINSKI FRICTION DEPICTS UNSTABLE POLICY

LD071103 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 81 Morning Edition p 5

[Correspondent M. Sturua dispatch under the rubric "America as It Is": "The Politicians Have Quarreled"]

[Text] Washington--When rats desert a sinking ship they do not care very much about good manners. The last days of the Carter administration are fresh evidence of this. The Carter "team" members have thrown off the fig leaf of mutual support and are settling scores with each other, giving vent to their feelings and their tongue.

More than anyone, this is happening to the President's National Security Adviser Z. Brzezinski. According to a NEWSWEEK report, Patrick Caddell, the outgoing President's personal expert on public opinion questions, stated that Brzezinski was "the most unpopular member" of the Democratic administration. This was confirmed by 80 percent of those questioned. The NEWSWEEK report embarrassed Caddell and he hastened to refute it.

The matter did not end here. A few days ago another member of the Carter administration--Secretary of State E. Muskie--attacked Brzezinski. As is well known, Muskie came to the U.S. State Department after Brzezinski had first sidelined and then "devoured" Muskie's predecessor Vance. For the time being, Muskie and Brzezinski gave the appearance that they were getting on excellently with one another. In the Washington corridors of power, however, the antagonism between Muskie and Brzezinski was an open secret. Then came the "outburst," as it is called, near the end of Muskie's act. He gave an interview to the Washington POST's main domestic political observer Broder in which, in the latter's words, Muskie "did not even try to conceal his contempt and disgust for the way in which that gentleman (Brzezinski--M.S.) performed his duties."

After the emotional outburst Muskie formulated four rules for the future and bequeathed them to his successor as secretary of state. The point of these rules is to prevent the appearance of a "new Brzezinski" in the White House.

And so, the four rules. First--the national security adviser must not have his own press secretary. Second--he must not hold any press conferences and must not speak on television. Third--no contacts with foreign power representatives. They must be made exclusively via State Department channels. Fourth and finally--the president must state bluntly to his national security adviser: "Keep to your own affairs and don't poke your nose in other people's."

Muskie's "four rules" naturally were not to Brzezinski's taste, although when applied to him they are already of purely academic interest. Nevertheless, when speaking in last Sunday's "Meet the Press" program on the NBC television channel, Brzezinski, after praising Gen Alexander Haig, the new secretary of state, made the transparent allusion that Haig's predecessors in that post, namely Vance and Muskie, were neither skillful nor competent leaders of U.S. foreign policy.

In itself a quarrel between drowning politicians is curious and instructive. It sheds light on the morals prevailing in official Washington and raises the curtain on why U.S. foreign policy is distinguished by an extreme and highly dangerous instability.

COMMENTARY ON SENATOR STEVENS' BEIJING VISIT

OW071902 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Glebov commentary]

[Excerpts] After concluding his talks with the Chinese leaders, U.S. Senator Stevens held a press conference in Beijing. Stevens, who will be the chairman of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee under the Reagan administration, said at the press conference that he would not rule out the possibility of the United States supplying the latest defensive weapons to China. On this, our station observer on foreign affairs Glebov writes the following commentary: Washington's promise to supply defensive arms to China undoubtedly shows the degree of the imperialists' trust and appreciation for the Chinese leaders. As a matter of fact, the Beijing ruling clique has in recent years convincingly demonstrated that it is prepared to serve American interests at any time and has ardently safeguarded the U.S. interests in Asia and the whole world. For example, Deng Xiaoping indicated that he was willing to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of Chinese people in order to win Washington's (?trust). He did just that 2 years ago. After promising the U.S. imperialists revenge on their behalf for the shameful defeat in Vietnam he launched the aggression against Socialist Vietnam. The Chinese leaders have also shouldered the principal responsibility in an undeclared war against (?Democratic) Afghanistan; that war was needed only by the imperialists and started by the U.S. imperialists. Prior to these events, the Chinese authorities enthusiastically helped the U.S. imperialists oppose the people of Bangladesh, Angola and Zaire.

The imperialists want to use a new form of trust to encourage the socialist government in Beijing to launch new adventures and to force the Chinese people to be a cat's-paw for Uncle Sam. It should be emphatically pointed out that the imperialists are actually playing a gamble in which they will never lose. There is no obligation, but only benefit, for them. The United States supplies arms to China and thus controls the most vital realm of China--national defense. The imperialists can control the quantity and quality of arms supply to China and can stop the supply of spareparts at any moment, thus making the combat military equipment a heap of scrap iron. The unbelievably expensive military equipment provided by the United States to China can only exhaust the Chinese economy, which is already very meagre, and will perpetuate the backwardness in China and freeze the extremely low living standard of the Chinese working people. The sale of defensive weapons to China will give the United States a (?pretext) to prevent the attempt to liberate Taiwan. It should be made known that the U.S. imperialists sell arms to other countries on a certain condition, that is, the buyer should not use the weapons to oppose the friends of the United States. And Taiwan is one of the friends of the United States.

The U.S. imperialists have extensively utilized the Beijing ruling clique's subservient services in order to more firmly tie China with the U.S. war chariot so that China will become an obedient tool of the imperialists' antipeople policy. The imperialists have also done other things to make China alienate itself from its really reliable ally. The United States should be proud of itself in succeeding in making good use of the Beijing upper ruling clique's anti-Sovietism and encouraging it to abrogate the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance. The treaty was once the guarantee for China's security and on more than one occasion helped China avert U.S. nuclear attack.

Judging from the content of leaflets distributed in Chinese cities and other publications by individuals, real patriots in China have become increasingly aware that the pro-imperialist policy pursued by Deng Xiaoping and his ilk is dangerous to the vital interests of the country and people. Those publications appeal to Deng Xiaoping and his followers to wake up to and escape disaster at the last moment.

WESTERN MEDIA CITED ON ECLIPSE OF HUA GUOFENG

LD071505 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 81 p 5

[TASS report: "New York TIMES report: 'Hua Guofeng Absent...'"]

[Text] New York, 2 Jan--The New York TIMES and Western news agencies report that Hua Guofeng, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, was absent from the official New Year's reception in Beijing which was attended by PRC party and state leaders. They assess this as evidence of the fact that Deng Xiaoping is taking steps to remove Hua Guofeng from real power. "The fact that Hua Guofeng was not present at the reception," Britain's DAILY TELEGRAPH writes, "is a clear sign that he has fallen victim to the endless power struggle in Beijing."

The Western mass media link this with the trial of the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing "counter-revolutionary grouping" in the course of which Hua Guofeng's close link with the gang of four during the Cultural Revolution and his responsibility for the reprisals against demonstrators on Tiananmen Square 5 April 1976 have come to light.

The Western news agencies and press point out here that, thanks to this trial, Deng Xiaoping has evidently succeeded in removing from the political arena his main rival in the struggle for power in China.

POLITICAL OBSERVER ON TRIAL OF JIANG QING

LD081008 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Jan 81

["Before the Final Curtain Falls on the Trial in Beijing"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jan (TASS)--TASS political observer Mikhail Yakovlev writes: As has already been reported, at the end of the trial of the Lin Biao and Jiang Qing "counter-revolutionary groupings," the prosecutor demanded "severe punishment" for the latter "for her particuclarly dangerous counterrevolutionary crimes." Western correspondents accredited in Beijing are expressing the supposition, referring to the article of the criminal code, that she might be sentenced to life imprisonment or death. Attention is drawn to the fact that the court has not yet passed sentence, although the trial ended back at the end of December. Evidently the organizers of the proceedings wished to keep its unfavorable effects to a minimum both domestically and abroad, and to present it strictly as a trial of "common criminals." However, the course of the trial demonstrated its political character. For instance, considerable attention was given to an examination of the actions of the accused at various stages in the political struggle in China's upper echelons, and to their participation in the intrigues in the Chinese leadership. As is known, 9 of the 10 accused were members of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, and held senior party, state and military posts.

Jiang Qing made a defense speech lasting over 2 hours, small excerpts of which were published. In this speech, she stubbornly rejected all charges that she had acted independently, without the knowledge of Mao. "Everything I did," she stated, "I did in accordance with the decisions of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, with Chairman Mao Zedung at its head, in accordance with the instrucrions of Mao Zedung and Zhou Enlai." Jiang Qing asserted that Mao Zedung and Zhou Enlai were both well informed of the nature of the "acts" carried out in accordance with these decisions in the context of the Cultural Revolution, "therefore, the slander against me is slander against Chairman Mao," she added. It is typical that this evidence was not only not taken into account by the court, but was declared "slander" against Mao Zedung. The prosecutor in his speech was unable to find convincing arguments refuting this (?main) reasoning of Jiang Qing. He stated that Mao Zedung, during the Cultural Revolution--which, as is known, he unleashed and which abounded in defamation of and violence against cadres and the popular masses--committed not crimes, but "errors in the area of leadership."

The conduct of the court was used for political publicity for Deng Xiaoping and a number of other Chinese leaders in power. The court and press tried to depict Deng Xiaoping on the one hand as almost the main victim of the Cultural Revolution, and on the other as the main fighter against the "gang of four," speaking openly against Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Qing stated that she considered and considers him a "revisionist" and "big traitor."

RENMIN RIBAO VIEW OF PRC PEACE POLICY ATTACKED

LD072008 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 7 Jan 81

["Strange Forgetfulness of RENMIN RIBAO"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jan, TASS--TASS observer Sergey Bulantsev writes:

Beijing propadanga is constantly talking about the "peaceful foreign policy of the PRC", about China's striving "to live in peace and accord" with its neighbours. Thus, on January 4 RENMIN RIBAO was making demagogic declarations about the "invariably peaceful" foreign policy of the PRC, about "respect for the five principles of peaceful coexistence", was asserting that China "never sent a single soldier" to other countries.

By making such assertions, RENMIN RIBAO manifests strange forgetfulness, or is interpreting in a peculiar way the principles of peaceful coexistence. In reality, Beijing's policy means acts of aggression and territorial expansion against neighbours of the PRC. It was established that during the past 20 years the number of frontier disputes, clashes and armed conflicts provoked by Beijing on the PRC's borders with other states surpassed the total number of such incidents all over the world. How can this go together with Beijing's "respect" for the principles of peaceful coexistence?

As to the assertions that Beijing never sent its soldiers to other countries, this statement cannot be described as anything but a shameless lie. Here are facts that need no comment: In 1956, Chinese soldiers tried to annex by force 170,000 square kilometres of the Burmese territory. Chinese soldiers are to this day trampling India and Vietnamese land. In 1962, Beijing unleashed an armed conflict with India, seized and is still holding 130,000 square kilometres of Indian lands. In 1975, Chinese Armed Forces seized the Paracel Islands belonging to Vietnam. As a result of the 1979 aggression, Beijing occupied and continues holding considerable sections of the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

According to reports of the Indian press, Chinese troops are stationed in Pakistan and conduct joint exercises with the Pakistani Army close to the Indian borders. Besides that, according to the information of the PRESS ASIA INTERNATIONAL, Beijing started the construction of its naval base in the Pakistani territory west of the port of Karachi. It is also known that during the struggle of the Angolan people for independence, Chinese military advisers were staying in the territory of that country and were training gangs of splitters from UNITA.

Such are the facts that the Beijing propaganda pretends to forget or keeps silent about. They show clearly what is behind the smokescreen of Beijing propaganda which hopes to mislead gullible people by constantly clamouring about peacefulness of the PRC.

JAPAN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH 'TUTORSHIP' OVER ASEAN

LD071440 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jan, TASS--TASS observer Vasiliy Kharkov writes:

Japan's Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki leaves on January 8 on a fortnight's tour of ASEAN countries. He will visit the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Suzuki decided to abandon the tradition of many years when each new Japanese prime minister was making a visit to Washington, first of all. Deciding to make his first official visit to the ASEAN countries, the head of the Japanese Government thus wished to emphasise the significance attached in Tokyo to the given region which is described as one of the mainstays of the present Japanese diplomacy.

The truth is that Japan is interested in ASEAN countries, above all, as a sphere for capital investments, as a market to purchase raw materials and sell finished products. Japan firmly holds the first place among other capitalist powers for the volume of investments in ASEAN countries. Over one-third of foreign capital investments in the region are Japanese investments. According to some data, Japanese capital investments in the area surpass two trillion yen.

Japanese investments are mainly concentrated in those branches of economy of ASEAN countries that supply Tokyo with raw materials and fuel and not in those branches where this would suit the interests of ASEAN countries themselves. Except, perhaps, for Singapore, ASEAN countries are mainly exporters of raw materials, while their industrial base is developed insufficiently. The structure of trade of ASEAN countries also bears the imprint of considerable dependence of foreign monopolies. Suffice it to say that the volume of trade within ASEAN countries is no more than 16 per cent of the total volume of their export and import.

Japan's so-called "assistance" to the industrialisation of ASEAN countries is in reality nothing more than advertizing. Former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda during his visit to the region in 1977 promised a large loan to ASEAN countries for the construction of a number of industrial projects. Though three and a half years have passed since the visit, the implementation of these projects has not been started. ASEAN countries complain that the money promised to them is hypothetical, while Japanese firms got hold of what is connected with these projects directly or indirectly and, using their monopoly right, are charging inordinate sums of money for all work.

The principle of "equal partnership" in relations with ASEAN countries that has been proclaimed by Tokyo turned out to mean the seizure by Japanese firms of the control over the markets of automobiles, products of electrical engineering, and even textiles. Trade of ASEAN countries with Japan does not have an equal character either, since Japan protected its market with high tariff barriers.

Japan pursues, above all, its own economic interests in the economic respect. In the political aspect, too, it would like to establish a sort of tutorship over ASEAN countries. Playing into the hands of Beijing and Washington, Tokyo contributes to the hullaballoo concerning the non-existent "Kampuchean problem," is seeking to make ASEAN countries quarrel with their neighbours in Indochina.

The Japanese prime minister is leaving on a tour of ASEAN countries at a time when military preparations are being stepped up in Japan which is causing concern in Southeast Asia. It is feared in Southeast Asia that the growing Japanese military might can be used for further economic expansion. The widening U.S.-Japanese military cooperation and the rapprochement between Tokyo and Beijing also create threats for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

PRAVDA: U.S., PRC TO CONTINUE TO PRESSURE TOKYO

LD071553 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 81 p 5

[Correspondent Yu. Vdovin dispatch: "In Unison"]

[Text] Tokyo, 2 Jan--As if by arrangement, Washington and Beijing have begun the new year with demands and appeals to Tokyo to speed up the country's militarization. In the United States this has found expression in the statements of State Department and Pentagon officials, and in China in a XINHUA commentary carried by RENMIN RIBAO.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN, writes that Washington has lectured Tokyo in unusually sharp terms for not fulfilling the former's demands to increase military expenditure by a minimum of 9.6 percent and has let it be known that this may have an adverse impact on the whole complex of relationships between the two countries. Such an open expression of displeasure, as the TOKYO SHIMBUN points out, indicates that the United States will continue to exert pressure on Japan by demanding the faster buildup of its combat might and more active participation in Pentagon strategy.

The new year commentary of XINHUA is devoted to the same theme. While expressing satisfaction that last year in Japan was marked by the galvanization of militarist forces, increased military expenditure and an intensified anti-Soviet campaign, Beijing lets it be understood from the commentary that it will support and encourage a similar development of events.

DRA REAFFIRMS READINESS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

U.S. Reaction

LD071538 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Afghanistan has reaffirmed readiness to reach a peaceful settlement of its relations with neighboring Pakistan and Iran. More from our news analyst Vladislav Kozyakov; this is what he writes:

Seemingly, Washington leaders would have considered seriously a long time ago the initiatives of the Afghan Government led by Babrak Karmal--initiatives that have the full backing of the Soviet Union, for there is so much talk nowadays in the U.S. capital about some sort of threat from Moscow that is directed almost against America itself. But the Afghan Government's proposals are clear and constructive. It is necessary, without further delay, to start talks involving Iran and Pakistan and to agree about safe guarantees against any interference in the affairs of the Afghan people. As soon as such guarantees are given there won't be any more need for the presence of the limited Soviet Army contingent in Afghanistan.

A few days ago the Babrak Karmal government reiterated its proposals, advanced initially on the 14th of last May. Afghanistan told India it is ready to hold talks on issues of a political settlement of the tensions in the region with Iran and Pakistan, with the mediation and presence of UN officials. Babrak Karmal sent that message to the Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi through his Minister of Public Education Miss Anahita Ratebzad, now staying in Delhi. By the way, speaking about her government's proposals, the Afghan minister stressed how important it is to reach agreement about guarantees for suspension of acts of aggression and other forms of interference in the republic's internal affairs. She said it would depend exactly on whether a full political settlement is reached that the limited Soviet Army contingent is withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Washington's reaction to these peaceful proposals is original. The officials who are demanding a stop to the Soviet military aid to Afghanistan actually do their best to prevent this. The leaders of counterrevolutionary bands are welcomed in U.S. Congress, bands that are trained in Pakistan and dispatched to Afghanistan for terrorist activities. Eighty military camps have been set up in Pakistan on American money to train and arm these bandits. Such bandits are even recruited in the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, not to speak of the fact that the mercenaries trained in this way are armed mostly with American weapons. One may say that Pakistan has become the main base from which the CIA and the Pentagon are waging the undeclared war against the Afghan people. Small wonder that even the public of Pakistan is increasingly concerned about these activities of Washington. People in that country next to Afghanistan are learning (?real fast) that the revolutionary Afghan Government enjoys growing support of the population, that many refugees are going back home and that the training and dispatch to Afghanistan of bandits supervised by Americans in Pakistan, are a source of tension. That surely bothers Pakistan. That is probably why under public pressure the Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi as reported by the Islamabad paper Pakistan TIMES to have sent a request a few days ago to the United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to dispatch a special envoy to arrange talks between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan about a settlement of the present situation.

But why, contrary to commonsense, does Washington rely on a continued undeclared war against the Afghan people mainly from the territory of Pakistan and in alliance with China? Is it because the American policy makers are banking on turning the entire region of southwest Asia into their military bastion? Or (?do they stake) on fanning tensions around Afghanistan, on launching campaigns of slander and misinformation around that country, in order to cover up the build-up of their armed forces in the region beyond any reasonable limit?

However, as President Leonid Brezhnev has underlined, one cannot go far by cheating. Life in Afghanistan will be gradually going back and is already going back to a normal, peaceful routine with the fog of misinformation evaporating by and by. And then one can assume Afghanistan's southern neighbors will realize that the only real way is to reach good neighborly agreements with the Afghan Government. As a result, there will appear conditions for full political normalization of the situation, including withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Apparently, the Washington politicians are most of all intimidated exactly by this prospect of stronger peace.

Commentary on Proposal

GF071543 Baku International Service in Persian to Iran 1400 GMT 5 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The common border between Afghanistan and its southern neighbors is hundreds of kilometers long. This border could have been the peace and tranquility border, but it has become the center of trouble and unrest. From the other side of the border, especially from Pakistan, terrorist groups are being sent to Afghanistan. After April 1978 just after the national democratic revolution in Afghanistan thousands of bandits were sent to this country--and these agents are trained and armed by U.S. and Chinese instructors in special bases. Nonaligned and independent Afghanistan, which has chosen the way of progress, in no way accepts the strategic and imperialist policies of the PRC and the United States--which is the true reason for the undeclared war by Beijing and Washington against the DRA.

The flow of revolution in this country is unlikely to be averted. The Afghan nation is there to defend the achievements of the revolution. The Soviet Union and other progressive forces of the world have offered their internationalist aid, however with all this, the situation in that country is unstable. Democratic Afghanistan has shown good will on many occasions and wants a political solution to the problems shadowing the region. On 14 May 1980, Afghanistan proposed clear conditions to solve the problem--Kabul proposed to its southern neighbors, Pakistan and Iran, to normalize their relations, which would be based on respect and trust of one another, equality of rights and good neighborliness. Kabul also proposed that direct discussions should begin. This realistic policy asked the concerned parties to be committed to not using armaments or taking aggressive action against each other. The Afghan nation believes that one of the most important ingredients for a solution to this problem is an international guarantee by the Soviet Union and the United States. The start of a political solution and a stop to aggressive action against Afghanistan will make possible the departure of the limited Soviet forces from Afghanistan, which are there due to repeated requests of the Afghan Government and according to the Afghan-Soviet treaty based on the UN Charter. The duty of these forces is to help the Afghan Army and the Afghan nation repulse foreign aggression.

The Soviet Union completely agrees with the Afghan Government's proposal--Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in his speech to the Indian Parliament during his recent visit to that country named those chiefly responsible for the Afghan crisis; namely, those who are against world peace and support the arms race and who, with a loud voice, ask for a ban on Soviet military aid to Afghanistan, and those who take any action to stop this help and send their armed bandits to Afghanistan.

They have told many lies about Democratic Afghanistan, and pretend there is a Soviet danger--Washington under the cover of this commotion has added to its military forces in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. Beijing hegemonists are racing toward South Asia and plot against India. Will this false hypothesis exist forever? No, sooner or later it will be torn apart. Leonid Brezhnev said that Afghanistan's neighbors will then realize that the only realistic way will be to agree with the Afghan Government. Consequently, the way for stabilizing the political situation, including the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, will be possible. Leonid Brezhnev said that in reality this is what the Soviet Union wants.

Recently Karmal, the prime minister of Afghanistan, again delivered a message concerning the normalization of the Afghan situation. In his message he said that the continuation of unrest among the Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani nations will not be to the benefit of the people of these countries but rather it will benefit imperialism and hegemonist China.

PRAVDA NOTES KARMAL MESSAGE ON PLO ANNIVERSARY

LD071151 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 81 p 4

[TASS report: "Solidarity With the Palestinian People"]

[Text] Kabul, 4 Jan--Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, has sent a message to Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the 16th anniversary of the commencement of combat operations by the Palestinian resistance movement.

The DRA, the message says, has always taken the side of the heroic Arab Palestinian people. The fraternal solidarity between the PDPA and the PLO is based on the joint struggle against imperialism, colonialism and Zionism. The PDPA and the government and people of Afghanistan express resolute support for the Palestinian Arabs' heroic struggle to restore their legitimate rights and confidence that the victory will fall to the Arab people of Palestine.

The message resolutely condemns the Camp David deal, which has exacerbated tension in the Near East still further. The PLO, Babrak Karmal stressed, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arabs. Peace and security in the Near East cannot be ensured without consideration for their national interests and without PLO participation.

A mass rally of solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine was held in the Afghan capital yesterday. Members of the PDPA and the Revolutionary Council and representatives of the Afghan public took part.

ILINSKIY VIEWS DRA NORMALIZATION, TRUST IN KARMAL

LD080845 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 52, 26 Dec 80 pp 14-15

[M. Ilinskiy report: "Afghanistan: Revolution's March"]

[Text] Kabul-Moscow--"We are glad the situation in Afghanistan is now settling down and life is gradually returning to normal. That is the way it ought to be." Those words spoken by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev back in October, during Babrak Karmal's visit to the USSR, are borne out every day by the course of events. Despite the many difficulties caused by external and internal reaction's subversive operations, an irreversible process of the rallying of the people's masses has been steadily taking place in the country, especially during the second stage of the April revolution. Local organs of revolutionary power are being set up and are operating successfully, the republic's territory is being cleared of the Basmak gangs and a vigorous struggle is being waged against the counterrevolutionary rabble. The army and state security and militia organs are being brought up to strength. Increasing numbers of applications for membership in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] are being received.

During the second stage of the April revolution the population's confidence in the government headed by B. Karmal can be clearly felt in all spheres of the republic's life. Intensive and large-scale work is currently being carried out to give official organizational form to a broad National Fatherland Front. This work requires statecraft, flexibility, tact, purposefulness and consistency, and respect for the population's religious feelings and customs. Like a deep river, the front is to include all patriotically minded mass organizations and representatives of all strata of society and, under the PDPA's leadership, is to mobilize Afghans to combat counterrevolution, illiteracy and backwardness and to boost the economy and the population's cultural standards.

During the latter half of 1980 a series of major sociopolitical measures was carried out in the country. In particular, a conference of mullahs and ulemas was held. The 600-plus representatives of the Afghan clergy and theologians who took part in the conference stated their full support for the DRA Government. And that is extremely important when you consider that the country has about 320,000 mullahs, who have influence among the population. I talked with some of them. My interlocutors stressed that freedom of religion is strictly guaranteed and maintained by the revolutionary government. Whereas the actions of the government's enemies are glaringly at variance with the principles of Islam. Incidentially, one of the mullahs who took part in the conference was attacked by counterrevolutionary Dushmans. The mullah died after proving his loyalty to the revolution. Revolutionary Afghanistan's enemies had hoped to intimidate the section of the clergy that has embarked on the path of actively supporting the government. But the effect was quite the reverse. The reactionaries were exposed as enemies of Islam. In response to the crime the mullahs began to call on their congregants to give every possible support to the government in its struggle against the terror by the bandit gangs.

For the first time in Afghanistan's history, constituent congresses for creative unions of journalists, artists and writers have been held. Congresses of medical personnel and teachers have been held. National conferences of young people, women and cooperative members have taken place.

...On the eve of a youth rally counterrevolutionary hirelings in Kabul circulated leaflets calling on the population not to participate. Nonetheless, not a single vacant place was left in the capital's stadium. I saw thousands of citizens gathered on the streets adjoining the stadium and listening to relays of the speeches. Students of the Kabul Polytechnical Institute whom I met there told me that Afghanistan's young people are becoming a reliable prop of the party and are prepared to devote all their strength to rebuffing the external aggression and counterrevolution.

Maja Klindt-Larsen, a Dane who was among the foreign guests in Kabul at the time, told me:

"In Afghanistan I have seen for myself that the news about the country that is reported in the West is either a downright lie or a collection of tendentious information that is provocative and subversive in character...."

Sam Sun (Deun), a guest from the People's Republic of Kampuchea, stressed:

"Our people's fates have a great deal in common. The Pol Pot regime, which carried out a Maoist experiment on Khmer soil, turned Kampuchea into a bloodbath. Tremendous trials have also befallen the Afghan people. We have common enemies--American imperialism and Chinese hegemonism. We also have common friends. Chief among them is the Soviet Union, which we regard as the bastion of peace, the national liberation movement and the people's social progress...."

In spring of this year the Afghan people's enemies were particularly active in inciting the republic's young citizens to antigovernment demonstrations. But a new school year has begun and the normal study process is underway in all the country's schools, lycees and institutes. All 16,000 Afghan students have begun their studies. Kabul University is the country's largest higher educational establishment. Some 12,000 students are receiving instruction in its 13 facilities. Despite the Western press' predictions, not a single antigovernment demonstration has taken place there. More than 800 new schools have opened in the country since the April revolution....

...In early October in Kabul the trial took place of a family of poisoners. It will be recalled that many pupils in the Kabul lycees were poisoned in May-June 1980. A total of 2,069 people suffered. The criminals appeared before a tribunal: five men and two women. They publicly admitted their guilt. The trial of the crime stretched across the country's borders and led to the so-called "Islamic alliance for the liberation of Afghanistan"--one of the reactionary emigre organizations existing on money from the imperialist and Chinese special services. [paragraph continues]

A dump was also found in the Kabul quarter of (Bazir-Abad) where bubble packs of American and Chinese-produced tablets were stored. These tablets, on reacting with water, release a toxic gas with paralyzing nerve effects. It was this that poisoned the Kabul lycee students.

All these crimes and similar ones unmask the revolution's enemies sent in from outside, who seek to pose as "saviors" of the Afghan people. More and more young Afghan men and women are joining in the struggle against these murdering "saviors." They are actively joining the detachments for the defense of the revolution. I witnessed the creation of such battalions with a strength of 1,500 men, and their dispatch to fight against the bandits, who are entrenched in the mountains and are continuing to maraud in separate groups of 2-5 men. The enemy is still not laying down his weapons. Changing tactics, he is resorting to bloody terror and sabotage and is undermining security and public order. And the Afghan people see the fight against external aggression, counterrevolution and the legacy of the feudal past as important tasks in the second stage of the April national democratic revolution.

The trade union movement is developing in the republic. More than 140,000 workers and employees are now members of the 255 trade union organizations. For the first time in Afghanistan's history labor competition has begun to develop--both inside individual enterprises and between the different provinces.

Prominent Afghan economists and DRA Minister of Commerce M.K. Jalalar, with whom I spoke, noted with satisfaction that practically all the country's industrial enterprises are now working at full capacity. This despite the fact that difficulties often arise with regard to the supply of raw and other materials because of counterrevolution's unceasing onslaughts. The national economic projects constructed at various times with the USSR's technical and economic assistance constitute the foundation of the state sector in Afghan industry.

Considerable changes are taking place in the Afghan countryside, where the agrarian reform is still being purposefully implemented and at the same time with due regard for local conditions. A law is now being elaborated which will juridically enshrine peasants' rights to use land and water. The new mentality of collective labor is increasingly beginning to gain a foothold in the countryside. Supply and sales cooperatives are being set up.

I visited several villages in Kabul Province when the peasants were beginning the fall sowing.

"Increasingly now the government is helping us with loans, transport, tools, fertilizers and seed," the peasants recounted. "This is a wise state policy that inspires the peasant masses with confidence. It displays concern for the future."

It is no secret that the Afghan revolution's foreign opponents have gambled on the stallholders, the small traders, of whom there are about 30,000 in Kabul alone. Repeatedly they have been incited to strike and actively oppose the government. Nonetheless, as is well known, not a single strike has occurred in recent months. This is evidence above all of the growth among traders of confidence in the government's line and their support for it.

The well-known French journalist and writer Henri Alleg, posing as a tourist, once decided to ask five traders in different areas of Kabul two identical questions: What were their attitudes toward B. Karmal's government and toward the presence of the limited Soviet troops contingent on Afghanistan's territory? Their answers can be generalized roughly as follows: The government does not interfere in our affairs, restrict us or impede movement around the country. On the contrary, it is trying to promote the development of domestic trade and the intensification of foreign trade operations by representatives of Afghan business circles. If anyone is harming us, it is the Dushmans sent in from outside--counterrevolutionaries who attack transport goods caravans and encroach on the population's life.

The Soviet servicemen are helping Afghans in the fight against the enemy and we are deeply grateful to them. The faster the enemy is defeated, the better it will be both for the entire people and for ourselves in particular. After all, there will then be more customers and foreign tourists will begin arriving. This means that our trade turnover, and therefore our income, will increase.

The testimony of these people representing an important sector of Afghan society and their growing trust in the government reflect the correctness of the DRA's course during the second stage of the April revolution.

The republic's international positions are also strengthening, despite all the attempts to undermine them by means of, say, intrigues at the United Nations. No matter what malignant attacks the Western mass media resort to, they cannot reverse the wheel of history. The international public is increasingly often exposing the falsifiers and it is increasingly hard for them to dupe the Western man in the street.

The main path for a political settlement of the situation that has taken shape over Afghanistan, so all realistically minded people believe, can only be direct, face-to-face talks between the governments of the DRA and neighboring states, in accordance with Kabul's well-known proposals, submitted 14 May 1980.

It will be recalled that Afghanistan's Government, in particular, suggested to the governments of Pakistan and Iran the drafting of bilateral agreements on developing friendly relations and all-round mutually advantageous cooperation with those countries. It is well known that these proposals were supported by the Soviet Union.

"Afghan-Soviet relations have always been and continue to be durable and principled," M. Barialay, member of the PDPA Central Committee, chief of the Central Committee International Department and chief editor of the newspaper HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR (THE TRUTH OF THE APRIL REVOLUTION), remarked in conversation with me. "These relations, whose foundations were laid by the great Lenin, serve the interests of our countries' peoples and the cause of peace in the region. More than 100 major industrial and agricultural facilities of vital significance to the republic's national economy have been constructed in Afghanistan, thousands of kilometers of highways have been constructed, educational institutions training skilled specialists have been set up--all with Soviet assistance. During the second stage of the April revolution the relations between our countries have been raised to a new qualitative level. The international assistance from the land of the soviets is widely supported and greeted with a sense of gratitude by the Afghan people. Babrak Karmal's recent visit to the USSR lent new impetus to the development of the fraternal relations between our countries and peoples...."

The Afghan people's struggle, under the PDPA's leadership, for the triumph of the April revolution's ideals is gathering momentum.

COMMENTARY VIEWS ANTISOCIALIST FORCES IN POLAND

LD071515 Radio Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The situation in Poland continues to remain in the center of attention of the world public. Typical of it is the effort of the Polish people to overcome the existing difficulties and their determination to ensure the country's further advance down the road of socialism. Poland is still confronted with many unresolved problems. The enemies of the socialist system, both inside and outside the country, take advantage of this situation to artifically whip up tension and weaken the positions of socialism. This is exactly the purpose of the noisy propaganda campaign the Western mass media means have been carrying out for several months already. The West German press seems to be particularly zealous. Almost every issue of the newspaper DIE WELT offers its readers one provocative lie after another. In fact, the newspaper calls for carrying out subversion against the people's government in Poland. The Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA has declared for its part that the Common Market countries and the United States can manipulate the Polish crisis so as to exacerbate the existing difficulties and destabilize the socialist community.

With the apparent approval of certain Western circles, the antisocialist forces in Poland have started to call openly for a further destruction of state structure intending to prevent the government and the party from influencing certain spheres of social and economic life. The provocative idea is being driven home more and more persistently about the need to add a political nature to new trade unions. In other words, there is an attempt to contrapose new trade unions to the socialist state and the Polish United Workers Party. This can only help create a state of anarchy and destabilization in the country. As the TRYBUNA LUDU points out, such intentions are bound to undermine the unity of state and society. They are the expression of the escalated antisocialist campaign.

As the December session of the NATO military alliance has revealed, NATO considers the developments in Poland from the position of strength and threats. The NATO leaders are searching for any means that will enable them to interfere in the domestic affairs of that socialist state, and would like to use the situation in Poland to fan up the military psychosis in Europe and destroy the relaxation process. The determination of the people of Poland to overcome the existing difficulties and ensure the country's development along the socialist lines is a reliable barrier which is to help counter the attempts of the imperialist and other reactionary groups to interfere in Poland's domestic affairs. This is the point that the Polish leaders keep emphasizing all the time.

[Moscow in Polish to Poland at 1700 GMT on 7 January repeats the above commentary verbatim, attributing the commentary to Leonid Krichevskiy]

PZPR'S FISZBACH SAYS PARTY TRYING TO END 'CHAOS'

LD071548 Moscow in Polish to Poland 1500 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Tadeusz Fiszbach, deputy member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the party voivodship committee in Gdansk, has stated that the renewal of Poland's life is only possible on the basis of socialism. In a Radio Moscow interview, Tadeusz Fiszbach said that is the only way of satisfying the strivings of Polish people and of guaranteeing Poland's security. The PZPR is doing all it can to close the ranks of the nation around the party and bring an end to everything that leads to chaos, stressed Tadeusz Fiszbach.

He said that Poles talk with appreciation about the Soviet Union's and other socialist countries' additional economic and financial aid. Tadeusz Fiszbach said that this aid will enable Poles to defeat difficulties more quickly.

POLISH ARMY PAPER CITED ON UNWANTED 'CONCERN'

LD071139 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Jan 81 p 9

[Unattributed report under the rubric "From the Foreign Press": "In Whose Interests?"]

[Text] "In Whose Interests?" was the headline of an article in the Polish newspaper ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI, which writes in particular:

It is understandable that the events in Poland, and primarily their influence on East-West relations and the detente process, are attracting attention in the world, not only from our closest friends--the socialist community countries and the communist and workers parties--but also from broad circles of working people in the capitalist states. In the opinions expressed in the West one can see many sober and realistic evaluations concerning our problems. They express concern over the stabilization of sociopolitical life in Poland, which is a significant factor in the process of detente and cooperation in Europe.

But alongside this positive trend in the West those forces striving to upset and distort the renewal process are becoming active. Their activity is directed toward supporting the opponents of socialism, interfering in our internal affairs and spreading distrust and artificial suspicion of our friends, primarily the Soviet Union.

It was this activity in particular which was intensified during the work of the latest NATO Council session in Brussels. The fact of the NATO Council's interference on U.S. orders in Poland's internal affairs must be termed impudent and inadmissible. At that session a number of reports were delivered which distort Polish-Soviet relations and make propaganda of the military threat hysteria.

Attempts at interference in internal affairs are often expressed in the form of various proposals. The activity of the U.S. labor union center AFL-CIO bosses may serve as an example. Union President Kirkland donated considerable resources from a "special fund for helping Polish workers," and G. Bluem, a figure from the FRG, called on the West to give Poland ideological help. It is true that no sensible Poles had asked Messrs Kirkland or Bluem for such help knowing for what aims that "support" was intended.

It is well known that, in line with U.S. intelligence directives, the present labor unions are taking part in a struggle against the "Red threat." The U.S. intelligence service is using the "labor union channel" to finance and motivate those processes in foreign trade union organizations and political parties which correspond to the interests of U.S. imperialism and primarily to those of the military-industrial complex.

The main aim of one department of the AFL-CIO labor union center is to set up and promote the programmed work of "free," "democratic" or "social democratic" local and regional trade unions and political organizations. Similar organizations have played a sinister role in the suppression of progressive movements in many countries of the world.

The supporters of the cold war are trying to make use of the crisis which exists in our country to discredit the socialist system and communism's ideals. It must be said clearly, therefore, that we do not need such "concern" for our affairs either from the NATO Council, the Pentagon or the CIA.

POLISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY SESSION REPORTED

LD071654 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] A plenum of the central board of the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society has been held in Warsaw. It was devoted to the tasks of this mass organization at the present stage of socialist construction in the Polish People's Republic. A report was delivered at the plenum by Wronski, chairman of the central board of the society.

He stated that only a socialist Poland, internally cohesive, linked by firm friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, is in a condition to ensure the people successful development. The decision adopted at the plenum stresses the need for all organizations of the society to join the struggle to implement measures directed at overcoming the difficulties which have arisen and ensuring further socialist development for the country, the struggle against antisocialist and anti-Soviet forces, decisively to suppress their hostile, subversive intrigues.

Importance of Ties

LD072244 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2004 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] A plenum of the central board of the Polish-Soviet friendship society has been held in Warsaw. It was devoted to the tasks of this mass organization at the present stage of socialist construction in Poland. Wronski, the chairman of the society's central board, stressed in his report that Polish-Soviet relations are a firm basis for the independence, sovereignty, and security of socialist Poland.

The speaker stressed that only a socialist Poland, internally cohesive and linked by firm friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, can ensure successful development for the people.

RUDE PRAVO DENIAL ON BASQUE TERRORISTS CITED

LD071854 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 7 Jan 81

["Absurd Lie"--TASS Headline]

[Text] Prague, 7 Jan,TASS--An absurd lie--this is how the newspaper RUDE PRAVO in its commentary qualifies the statement of the newspaper of the Spanish police, POLICIA ESPANOLA, that allegedly Basque terrorists have in the recent years undergone military and guerrilla warfare training in Czechoslovakia. The newspaper gives no proof for that lie, since it is impossible to prove what does not exist, the commentary stresses.

It is not for the first time that some West European circles are trying to accuse Czechoslovakia of training terrorists. Recently Italian newspaper asserted that members of the Maoist so-called "Red Brigades" are trained in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Why such lies are going up again? The answer can only be this. The Spanish bourgeois society is unable to cope with the wave of terrorism. Therefore, the right-wing forces are trying to cover up by invented slander the real culprits. The fabrications of the Spanish newspaper, which were picked up by Western news agencies, cannot conceal the fact that the roots of Basque terrorism should be sought in Spain itself, in the 40-year long history of the Francoist dictatorship which brutally suppressed the rights of the national minorities. To look for these roots in some other place, to smear others will not help bring out the truth, will not be able to put an end to the dramatic showing of social contradictions in Spain which manifests itself in political terrorism, the RUDE PRAVO stresses.

HUNGARIAN AIDE PULAI COMMENTS ON 1981-85 PLAN

LD070943 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 23 Dec 80 p 3

[Special correspondent V. Fedinin Budapest interview with Miklos Pulai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian National Planning Office: "Dynamically, Confidently"--date of interview not specified; carried under the rubric "In the Socialist Countries"; first paragraph is SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA introduction]

[Text] Hungary is completing the fulfillment of another 5-year plan. A few days ago the National Assembly approved the national economic development plan for 1981-1985. Our special correspondent V. Fedinin met with Miklos Pulai, deputy chairman of Hungary's National Planning Office, and asked him to describe the new plan's peculiarities, main tasks and problems.

First of all, Comrade Pulai said, I want to note that in the current 5-year period the Hungarian national economy has continued to develop dynamically in accordance with the plan and the demands of economic policy. The planned indicators have been reached and surpassed in terms of many items. In particular, the housing construction plan is being overfulfilled and the agricultural output targets have been fulfilled. At the same time certain difficulties are also still making themselves felt, and specific measures are being taken to overcome them in the new plan. The Sixth 5-Year Plan continues the line of further growth in material production, a strengthening in the planned nature and balance of the national economy and the consolidation of working people's living standards. The party and the state are directing the people's efforts towards revealing and using reserves for economic growth. Probably the most characteristic feature of the new plan is the emphasis on social production efficiency, on improving labor productivity and quality, on making rational use of material resources and on saving raw and other materials and energy.

If we are to mention the main figures characterizing the plan, they look like this. The projected increase in national income is 14-17 percent. The growth in industrial production will be 19-22 percent, and in agricultural production 12-15 percent. The population's real income will increase 6-7 percent. Another feature of the new plan is that it will be more flexible. It contains fewer specific indicators, and all the attention is focused on the main directions and tasks of economic development and on ways and means of implementing them. This will give enterprises more economic independence and will force them to seek the most rational ways of achieving the set aims.

[Question] What place do questions of improving working people's life occupy in the Sixth 5-Year Plan?

[Answer] I think there is no need to specially prove that concern for the people's well-being is the central task of the party and the state, Miklos Pulai stressed. If you look at the indicators for the growth in the population's real income, they are comparatively modest. But you have to take into account the trends in the country's internal development and in the world economy. We are faced with instability on the world markets and inflation and high prices in the capitalist countries, and these are influencing the Hungarian economy. Nonetheless, even under these complex conditions the party attaches paramount importance in its policy to questions of preserving and consolidating the living standards working people have achieved. Growth in real incomes and increased consumption are planned. A housing construction program has been elaborated. The housing conditions of hundreds of thousands of citizens will be improved--in particular, the intention is to make it easier for newlyweds to obtain an apartment--and the construction of schools and public health institutions is being expanded. In the 5-year period a considerable step forward will be taken in protecting people's health and improving their supply with goods.

Another vital feature that should be noted is the transition to a 5-day workweek. This will be implemented beginning in 1982. Provision has been made for considerable appropriations for mechanizing heavy manual labor. Of course, we would like to do more, but the plan is based on realistic potential. And our working people realize this. In particular, the Hungarian trade unions carefully discussed all the plan's provisions and completely agreed with its basic content.

[Question] What are the implications of the thesis of balance in developing the Hungarian economy?

[Answer] As is well known, the world economy is extremely changeable, and this cannot fail to affect plan fulfillment. So one of our central tasks is the balanced development of all aspects of our economy and in particular the ensuring of balance between imports and exports. Unfortunately, we have developed a foreign trade deficit in recent years, especially in trade with the capitalist countries. We have set ourselves the aim of improving the foreign trade balance and ensuring budget stability and the systematic development of all aspects of the national economy. This requires a further improvement in economic management, a rise in the standard of economic activity, an improvement in the structure of production and the fuller use of scientific and technical achievements.

[Question] So the plan's success will crucially depend on the ability to conduct economic activity efficiently and thriftily?

[Answer] Absolutely, the party sees that as the key to solving the problems facing us. The plan defines measures to improve material production efficiency and improve output quality. Take capital investments, for instance: Their total volume remains at the level of the current 5-year plan but we are to obtain a considerably greater return on them. The point is that many projects begun in the last 5-year plan will be commissioned during the new plan.

Moreover, the economic levers provide inducements to thrift. In particular, credit policy is being organized to encourage investment in projects that will pay for themselves in 3 years. Thanks to the rapid assimilation of capital investments, it will be possible to implement structural changes in the national economy and to increase export potential.

The changes taking place in wholesale prices policy also induce enterprises to produce high-quality output capable of withstanding competition on world markets. The crux of these changes lies in the more precise accounting of foreign market prices and their coordination with the internal production prices in the sectors where the development of production depends on exports or rational imports. This prompts enterprises to seek ways of improving efficiency.

The higher the quality and the lower the costs, the greater the profits. Consequently the enterprise gains greater potential for modernizing and expanding production and providing incentives for its workers. A great role is assigned to remuneration in the system of measures aimed at improving efficiency. At present, economists believe, it still does not completely fulfill an incentive function. So the 5-year plan sets the task of linking its size more closely with the end results. The enterprises that have higher indicators will also be able to increase the wages fund.

[Question] How does the plan reflect the questions of international economic cooperation and, in particular, the development of the cooperation between Hungary and the USSR?

[Answer] In the new plan we are proceeding from the need to further expand and deepen international economic cooperation. [paragraph continues]

And it is primarily our economic ties with the Soviet Union that are expanding. The 12th MSZMP Congress specially stressed that the main condition of Hungary's economic development is deepened cooperation with the USSR. The international economic situation and our common interests urgently demand that the coordination of the CEMA countries' economic development policy be intensified and that the systematic nature and efficiency of that cooperation be increased. Important specialization and corproduction agreements were signed recently which will largely determine cooperation in the next 5 years. Special attention has been paid to implementing the long-term program and sector programs for developing production, scientific and technical cooperation. We are very glad that the main guidelines for the USSR's economic and social development in the coming period also emphasize the need to develop trade, economic, scientific and technical ties with the socialist countries.

HONECKER'S LOOK AT NEW YEAR PROSPECTS REPORTED

LD071131 Msocow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 81 p 4

[TASS report: "Indestructible Unity"]

[Text] Berlin, 31 Dec--Decisive significance for the GDR's dynamic development and the republic's successful foreign policy activity attaches to its indestructible unity with the USSR and the other socialist community states. The proven combat alliance between the CPSU and the SED and the indestructible friendship between the Soviet Union and the GDR make it possible to resolve the most complex issues of social development and open up sure prospects, E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, writes today in the newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND.

The outgoing year, the article says, has passed in the community countries under the sign of purposeful struggle for peace, international security and disarmament. This was clearly confirmed during the Moscow meeting of Warsaw Pact party and state leaders, which showed that it is more essential than ever today to supplement political detente with measures in the military sphere. Safeguarding peace in Europe, and not only on this continent, depends ultimately on this.

The socialist countries, the article notes, are making vigorous efforts to strengthen world peace and develop good-neighborly relations between states on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and against the policy of stepping up the arms race and confrontation. This also applies to the GDR's relations with its immediate Western neighbor the FRG, which are part of the GDR's relations with the capitalist countries.

On the eve of the new decade everyone is worried by the question of what will happen to detente in the future, E. Honecker writes. The policy of boosting the arms race pursued by the NATO bloc and primarily by the United States presents a grave threat to this process. The NATO decision to produce new types of U.S. nuclear-missiles and to deploy them in West Europe, the long-term arms program and the refusal to ratify the SALT II treaty are fraught with grave peril. All this is nothing but an attempt to alter the existing equilibrium to the detriment of socialism.

The path to progress in resolving the disarmament problem, the article points out, is opened up by the constructive proposals contained in the documents of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee May conference. Life itself confirms the correctness and timeliness of these initiatives.

The coming year will proceed in the GDR under the sign of the 10th SED Congress, which will outline future avenues for building developed socialism in the republic and creating the fundamental preconditions for gradual transition to communism. It will be held after the 26th CPSU Congress. The Soviet communists' forum will be a notable event in the life of the entire socialist community and the world communist movement and for all forces of peace and progress, E. Honecker stressed.

GISCARD D'ESTAING BACKS CONTINUED DIALOGUE

LD071555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 81 p 4

[TASS report: "In Favor of Continued Dialogue"]

[Text] Paris, 3 Jan--President V. Giscard d'Estaing of France has advocated continued dialogue with the Soviet Union. Speaking at a reception for representatives of the diplomatic corps, he noted that France will tirelessly act in favor of peace and security.

The president stressed that France will continue to support all efforts aimed at limiting and subsequently reducing armaments. West Europe must regain its role in international affairs, acting as a factor for reason, equilibrium and world peace, V. Giscard d'Estaing said.

SPRINGER PRESS 'LAMENTATIONS' ON POLAND VIEWED

LD080038 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in German 1830 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Millions of people in the Federal Republic are probably fed up with the lamentation of the Springer Press about events in Poland, which are presented as if Polish worries were more important for the Federal Republic than for Poland. It is perfectly natural that BILD ZEITUNG, DIE WELT and all the other papers [words indistinct] should relish any complication or problem occurring during the building of communism in Poland. To write about such things is far more pleasant and easier for the mouthpieces of West Germany's bourgeoisie than to report about the deep economic crisis in their own country, about the mounting inflation in the FRG, about the millions of West German citizens for whom the capitalist society cannot provide work, education or elementary medical care. We are well acquainted with the attempts of the exploiters to fasten on any setback in the life of some socialist country and use it to blacken socialism as a whole. [words indistinct]

What the Springer papers and periodicals are now doing in connection with events in Poland is more and more clearly going beyond the ideological framework and constitutes actions of direct interference in the life of a neighboring sovereign state, a deliberate blow against detente on the European Continent. No other interpretation can be put on the fact that Springer's DIE WELT has on several occasions placed its columns at the disposal of the war-lusting advocates of a revision of the results of World War II who impudently suggest that the events in Poland should be exploited to conquer western and northern Polish (?territories).

Others go still further. They declare vociferously that if the West and especially the FRG acted with greater resolution in extending direct military help to antisocialist forces in a number of East European countries, as for instance at one time in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and now in Poland, the Warsaw Treaty would be dealt a mortal blow. The authors of such nonsense can hardly have believed there was a real possibility of liquidating the socialist societies in East Europe, that mighty community of socialist states of which Poland is an integral member. They believe in something else, in the possibility of aggravating the atmosphere of tension and distrust in Europe to a maximum and thereby creating the prerequisite for an unbridled arms race with a promise of fabulous profits for their class.

For this class it is far easier to maintain its rule in a situation of militarist hysteria and worry about coming military conflicts. At the same time this makes it easier to tighten the screws and drive democrats into a corner. Again, it is easier to duck the question of why life is becoming more expensive and why important social programs are not put into practice. This is precisely what Springer's hacks hope to achieve in connection with the events in Poland. Their entire activities against Poland are therefore directed against the working people in the Federal Republic, not to mention the undermining of the positive nuances in Bonn's Eastern policy.

NABAVI REMARKS ON HOSTAGES, RELEASE TERMS NOTED

LD071510 Moscow TASS in English 1453 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 Jan, TASS--The American hostages will be released if the United States accepts the terms, advanced by the Iranian Majlis (parliament), and if the Iranian Government is fully confident that the United States will honour its obligations.

This has been stated at a press conference held here by Minister of State for Administrative Affairs B. Nabavi. The Iranian Government, as is known, demands as terms for the release of the American hostages that the United States should give an obligation not to interfere into Iran's affairs, that it should lift the ban on Iranian assets frozen at American banks, that it should cancel all suits and give up other claims by American firms and individuals that were brought against Iran after the conflict began and should return to Iran the wealth plundered by the shah and his family and taken out of the country.

LEBEDEVA CONDEMNS U.S. PRESSURE AGAINST IRAN

GF071430 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 6 Jan 81

[Vera Lebedeva commentary]

[Text] Dear friends: Recent events have shown that the United States is attempting to increase its pressure on Iran by using the hostage issue, thus terrorizing your country with the threat of military force. The United States has rejected Iranian demands and instead has put forth demands which are insulting to your country and are therefore totally unacceptable. The United States in reality has given an ultimatum to Iran--to support this argument, it was announced in Washington that it will be terminated on 16 January 1981.

On the same subject, the recent articles in U.S. papers are interesting. For example, the New York TIMES openly invites mining Iranian ports and sending the Rapid Deployment Force to the Persian Gulf for the necessary operations. This U.S. paper is not satisfied with this and insists that the Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks should be used to pay damages to the families of U.S. diplomats held for being spies in Iran. The Washington POST, which is another influential U.S. paper, has a more aggressive stand and considers it advantageous to push Iranians out of the Persian Gulf islands, to occupy the island of Lavan, where there is an Iranian Air Force base, and to disable the oil (?terminal) in Khark Island. The paper also suggests that the Persian Gulf be closed to Iranian ships. This is not limited to the [word indistinct] that are published in the so-called free U.S. papers. According to a recent report in the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon is secretly preparing the forces which have been trained in Egypt for a war against Iran. (?Every 3 months) 2,000 American officers and soldiers are trained on Egyptian shooting grounds. According to this Saudi paper their number may increase soon for the purpose of a new aggressive operation against Iran.

At the same time, over 60 U.S. naval ships and those of its NATO allies are [word indistinct] near the Iranian coast. The United States has expanded its existing bases and is building new bases in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean area. U.S. imperialists have made close contacts with the Iranian counterrevolutionaries who are dreaming of the return of the imperial regime. We could continue counting the aggressive U.S. actions against Iran but it will take a long time. I, therefore, want to stress the important point that all U.S. policies on Iran are aggressive. The present situation is similar to when the United States gave all of its support to the former shah--the bloodsucking executioner of Iranian people. Washington, now as before, does not want to negotiate with Iran as an equal government and does not want to respect the interests of the people of [word indistinct].

In the same line the recent statements by Powell, the White House spokesman, are very revealing. In answer to a television reporter's question on whether Carter's government has reviewed the possibility of declaring war against Iran, he answered that all relevant plans have been looked into. The New York TIMES [words indistinct] explains that the Pentagon intends to deal blows against Tehran and Esfahan since all the military units stationed in these two cities have been weakened due to deploying forces to the Iraqi warfronts.

The imperialist propagandists, to make simple things more involved and to fool public opinion, have made Iranian demands look extreme and unacceptable. The U.S. papers, one after the other, and radios and television following suit, have called Iranians barbarians. Washington authorities, who pretend to be defenders of international rights, in reality trample the just Iranian rights and the right of your country to independently use its assets in U.S. banks. The [name indistinct] newspaper on the same subject writes that there is no lawful reason for the United States to continue to freeze Iranian assets. But the U.S. imperialists do not have the habit of respecting rights of others or do not want to respect these rights. At the same time with [words indistinct] they try to defend their plundering and colonial interests in any location such as the Persian Gulf or any location that is very distant from U.S. shores. The time when the imperialists and (?colonialists) could force their will on other nations is, however, completely over. This reality must not be ignored. The U.S. imperialists are still ignoring Iranian rights and Washington's ultimatum and threats against your country are proof of this. Dear friends, thank you for attention.

COMMENTARY ON KISSINGER'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

Remarks in Jerusalem

LD071918 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 7 Jan 81

["Threats Seeming and Real"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jan, (TASS)--TASS commentator Nikolay Novikov writes:

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, speaking on Tuesday at a press conference in Jerusalem made public his intention to call on the next U.S. administration to "station in the Middle East naval, airforce and specialised land forces of the United States. According to the newspaper Washington POST he justified that by referring to the need "to resist the broadening Soviet military presence in the region and to strengthen there the positions of the United States."

Wherever Henry Kissinger spoke during his current trip to the Middle East, he did not fail to use the hackneyed ploy about the mythical "Soviet threat" in order to "justify" the aggressive aspirations of U.S. imperialism in the region.

In the process, Kissinger apparently felt no qualms that he was intimidating his audiences and interlocutors by invoking a "threat" from the Soviet Union to the area of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. While there is not a single Soviet soldier there, the United States has organised a veritable militaristic sabbath there. The area of the Persian Gulf is now an area where huge naval forces have been concentrated by the United States and its allies, military equipment and ammunition has been concentrated sufficient to arm 12,000 marines as well as 500 aircraft. 1,800 U.S. marines have already arrived there and another 1,800 U.S. soldiers and officers are being sent there. U.S. AWACS planes fly missions over the Persian Gulf. New bases are being built and the old ones reconstructed. New bases are being explored in Egypt.

U.S. militarist activity in the region first was "justified" by references to the need of "protecting" the oil fields, then by the Iranian developments, then by the capture of U.S. hostages in Tehran, then by the events in Afghanistan and finally by the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Whatever the pretexts invented in Washington, including the mythical "Soviet threat," the aim of U.S. imperialism--to use armed force in order to put under its control the situation in the area--is becoming increasingly evident. The current "unofficial" trip by Kissinger is also aimed at the attainment of the same objective. A threat to the peoples of the region--not mythical but quite real, is the U.S. military threat.

As regards the Soviet Union, its vast program for neutralizing and demilitarising the Persian Gulf area, put forward by Leonid Brezhnev during his recent visit to India, was characterised by a number of states and statesmen in the region as a plan for peace and security.

Purpose of Visit

LD071920 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Aleksey Zlatorunskiy commentary: "Henry Kissinger's Nonprivate Visits"]

[Excerpts] Henry Kissinger, one of the makers of the American policy in the Middle East and the one who laid down the so-called shuttle diplomacy and the stage by stage settlement as a basis for the Camp David deal, is now touring a number of Arab and African states.

In a special communique, ADEN NEWS AGENCY said that the former secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, had emphasized in the course of his tour that the United States sees in the Arabian Peninsula region, the Gulf and the Horn of Africa what it calls the region of its vital interests and that it is determined to expand its military presence in this part of the world.

It is difficult to deny the correctness of this conclusion bearing in mind that it is based on Kissinger's statements themselves which he made in Israel, Egypt and Somalia. Nevertheless, it generally appears that the mission of the former American secretary of state is much wider. The aim of this visit is to prepare the ground for the activation of the American expansion, not, for instance, just in the Gulf region and the Middle East or in the region of the Horn of Africa, but also on an international level in general. An indication of this is the scheduled visit which Henry Kissinger will be paying to Morocco. It is common knowledge that this country is not directly involved with the question of the Middle East or with the Gulf or the Horn of Africa. It has become an open secret that for sometime Washington has been banking on Morocco since it considered it a country which could be a springboard for the tide of American expansion to other countries in Arab Maghreb. It would be naive to believe that while the United States is delivering weapons to Morocco, driving it to aggravate tension in the question of Western Sahara and prevent, by any means, its political solution, it is doing all this for the sake of good relations with this country, as Washington puts it. No. The United States is wagering on the fact that the continuation of the armed conflict in Western Sahara will weaken Morocco particularly in the face of the consolidation of political influence--bearing in mind that Morocco's pcsition toward the question of Western Sahara does not have the support of either the United Nations, the OAU or the Arab League.

Washington wants to drag Morocco into the field of its strategy of annexing the territories of others, with the aim of using this state as a means to apply pressure on other states. Who knows, perhaps it wants to establish American military bases like those which existed in Morocco in the past. It was only in this way, and no other, that Washington secured military bases in Somalia, Oman, Egypt and in certain other countries.

It must be pointed out that security and stability in the Indian Ocean region, or in the Gulf or in both the Middle and Near East, depended chiefly on the actual ability of peoples of these areas to enjoy their right to sovereignty and security, through the development they have chosen for themselves. As to the ability to enjoy such right, this does not exist in practice in the event of the imposition of a foreign military presence there.

According to historic facts, all countries that got rid of imperialist dependency used to demand as a first step liquidation of foreign military bases on their territories. The colonialists were compelled to withdraw from Marsa al-Kabir in Algeria, from Kenitra in Morocco, from Wheelus Field in Libya, and so forth.

The importance of this step is great. It is a fact that the day of liquidation of foreign bases is still being considered a national day in a number of countries. Today the United States wants to tie once more both the Near and the Middle East, Africa and the Indian Ocean region to a network of its military bases. This policy was actively pursued by the Carter administration. It is this administration which began to establish the new bases and restore the old bases in Kenya, Somalia, Oman, Egypt and Israel. It is this administration which began to make efforts for the establishment of the military and political alliance between Washington, Cairo and Tel Aviv. Kissinger's mission shows that the White House, and perhaps the new administration too, are seeking to activate the expansionist policy and drag more states into the sphere of the strategic plans of American imperialism.

Kapralov Article

LD071613 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 81 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by A. Kapralov under the rubric "On International Topics": "According to the Old Recipes"]

[Text] Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has set off on a Near East tour. His itinerary includes Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman and also Somalia. Kissinger arrived in the Near East as a "private person." But his trip has been undertaken, the American press reports, with the consent of R. Reagan, to whom, the former secretary of state said as he departed, he will report on the results of his visit.

What is the purpose of the former American diplomatic department chief's mission? To answer this question you have to go back a few years to the mid-seventies and recall the American Near East diplomatic tactics called Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy." Washington was bent on attaining very specific goals through this "stage-by-stage" diplomacy. They were to isolate Egypt as a factor in the Near East conflict, ensure the conclusion of separate deals between Israel and its Arab neighbors, undermine the Arab peoples' friendship with the Soviet Union and strengthen American imperialism's positions in the Near East. The American emissaries by no means managed to attain all these goals but the strategy did ultimately lead to the conclusion of the Camp David deal, Cairo's capitulation to the Israeli aggressor, a split in Arab unity and the accelerated buildup of the U.S. military presence on the Near East and Persian Gulf region.

The Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR was right to call Kissinger the "godfather" of the Camp David deal. The former secretary of state did not participate directly in the conclusion of the deal but his are the author's rights to the prologue to the Camp David scenario. And now that the U.S. Camp David course is entering a new phase with the arrival of a new American administration in the White House Kissinger is aspiring to a more active role in determining his "godson's" future.

As Kissinger himself said, one purpose of his trip will be to try to increase the number of parties to the Camp David agreement by involving Jordan. It has long been Washington's cherished dream to include the Hashemite Kingdom in the deal. Kissinger tried hard to achieve this when he was secretary of state. But the Jordanian Government rejected all U.S. overtures. But now that the next American administration has declared its adherence to the Camp David policy attempts will obviously be made to extract Carter's venture from its impasse.

Kissinger's itinerary also indicates that talks he will be holding during the tour will touch on military aspects. Suffice it to say that his route passes through Oman and Somalia where the United States is setting up military bases to establish control over the northwest part of the Indian Ocean. Kissinger welcomes the idea of expanding the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean. Statements he made when he stopped off in Cairo show that. Commenting on the former U.S. secretary of state's trip, the foreign press points out that Washington is reverting to its old "shuttle diplomacy" tactics. One thing is clear now: The United States has no intention of departing from the Camp David course or its plans to throw a chain of U.S. military bases around the Near and Middle East region, and Kissinger is reconnoitering prior to the new stage in the U.S. Near East military political campaign.

SUPERPOWER RIVALRY THEORY IN MIDEAST DISPUTED

LD072315 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 3 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Lebanese Al-HURRIYAH has criticized the attempts of certain quarters in the Middle East to interpret the Soviet proposals on the security of the Gulf as rivalry between the two superpowers. The magazine believes that by such an attitude the representatives of these quarters are not aware what an antipatriotic attitude is all about. Al-HURRIYAH said those who support America do not like the peaceful Soviet initiative because it provides for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Gulf, chiefly the American forces which are there to protect their dishonest interests against their own peoples. Al-HURRIYAH wonders if it is possible for a sensible man to (?object). For any other reason than the establishment of new military bases for imperialism and the deployment of nuclear weapons in the Gulf, to respect for the sovereignty and independence of its states and for turning the region into a region of peace and security. [sentence as heard] The fact is that the representatives of these quarters have nothing in common between their stance and the national interests of the peoples of the Middle East. Have they warned against the threat of their plotting? Their attempt to say that the Soviet Union and the United States are alike--the United States which practices a clear policy against the national liberation movements--benefits imperialism in both instances. The quarters which advocate such slogans in Lebanon make it easy for Washington to maneuver in favor of Israel, while some quarters in the Arabian Gulf countries who advocate this slogan make it possible for imperialism to continue the unhindered plundering of the oil resources of the region. Iranian reaction exploits the issue of the two superpowers to prepare a counterrevolutionary coup in Iran and drag it to serve American imperialism once more. The Egyptian president, Anwar as-Sadat, has also been pursuing the same course for some time--As-Sadat who also conceals his betrayal by talking about the two superpowers. It must be pointed out at the same time that the issue of the two superpowers is aimed at undermining cooperation between the countries of the Middle East and the Soviet Union, which always respects the legitimate rights and interests of these countries. The Beirut As-SAFIR points out in this connection that the large military and financial assistance to the Arab countries is being used in their struggle against aggression and expansion. As for the attitude of the United States, it is disappointing.

As-SAFIR says that time shows that the Arab leaders who are trying to practice a balanced policy must not place the United States and the Soviet Union on the same level, since the attitude of the two states and their participation in the struggle of the Arab peoples for the liberation of the occupied territories can never be held equal. It is obvious that the efforts of those who are reiterating the issue of the two superpowers are aimed at denying this very experience. The issue is aimed at paralyzing the struggle of the patriotic forces in the countries of the Middle East for the consolidation of national independence and social progress. It is a veil which conceals the interference of the United States in the affairs of the countries of the region. The issue of the two superpowers is aimed at hindering the cooperation of the countries of the Middle East with the Soviet Union--the country of the Great October--in the struggle against the machinations of imperialism and reaction.

LOPEZ PORTILLO MEETING SHOWS L. AMERICAN PRIORITY

PY070247 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 6 Jan 81

[By Nikolay Chigir]

[Text] The meeting between the Mexican president and the U.S. president-elect has given rise to many comments. Both the Latin American and the U.S. news media stress the fact that the meeting was requested by Reagan and that he was the first U.S. president to visit a Mexican president even before taking power.

This gesture of the future U.S. president is viewed as a sign that his administration plans to give a great deal of attention to U.S. relations, not only with Mexico, but with Latin American and Caribbean countries in general.

These relations have deteriorated significantly during Carter's outgoing administration. Carter's sword-rattling policy toward the Caribbean had unleashed a wave of indignation among Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The support which Washington gives to the bloodthirsty Salvadoran Government junta and its plans for alien intervention in this Central American country are being harshly criticized. The 10th OAS General Assembly was an obvious example of the deep-set crisis between the United States and its southern neighbors.

Many analysts are now wondering about the objectives which the new U.S. administration will seek in Latin America. According to the magazine NEWSWEEK, this policy will be put to its severest test in Central America and the Caribbean.

According to an NBC correspondent, the meeting between Reagan and Lopez Portillo will do nothing to change the Mexican president's viewpoint about Latin American affairs. Lopez Portillo insists that the United States must put an end to its interference in the domestic affairs of the continent and must give its peoples a chance to decide their own fates.

There is no doubt that the end of U.S. interference in the domestic affairs of Latin American countries could be the starting point for the normalization of inter-American relations.

REAGAN'S STATEMENTS ON EL SALVADOR CRITICIZED

PY071552 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 6 Jan 81

["Focus on El Salvador" by Valentin Mashkin]

[Text] The recent murder of three union leaders, two of whom were U.S. citizens, in San Salvador continues to draw worldwide attention. Who are the murderers?

In response to this question the Salvadoran Government junta tried at first to blame the left. However, yesterday it had to admit that rightwing extremists were responsible for the crime. The authorities said that it was an act of irrational vengeance and clarified that the rightists killed the union leaders because they were involved in the ongoing agrarian reform.

Well, this could well be. The reactionaries oppose this reform even though this reform is far from being radical, which is why the leftwing opposes it too. However, we believe that this was not the only motive behind the Sheraton Hotel murder, since it is not the first time U.S. citizens have been murdered in El Salvador.

It seems that those who kill them do so to blame the left and unleash the indignation of the U.S. people and create an atmosphere favorable to the interventionist escalation of the Washington government.

We also believe that the provocative crime was perpetrated with the consent of the government junta and not in response to its direct orders.

By the way, Col Adolfo Majano, former government member, also blamed sectors of the military-Christian Democratic regime for the death of the three labor leaders. Still another Salvadoran, Priest (Benito Tovar) on Monday charged the Salvadoran Army and Government with the killing of four U.S. nuns and two U.S. officials in order to hasten the imminent U.S. military intervention in this Central American nation.

Despite the fact that the Salvadoran junta is perpetrating crimes and a genocide of the people, U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan has described it, however, as moderate. He stated that El Salvador is experiencing a sort of civil war in which three factions are involved. One of these is the government junta which is confronting the other two, that is, the extreme left and the extreme right.

You can see, of course, that I completely disagree with this statement since the extreme right is acting in unison with the government junta. Moreover, the term "extreme left" is not a proper term to describe those who struggle against the junta, since they are not ultraleftist terrorists. They are guerrillas who represent the entire opposition and they have the support of the masses.

The U.S. President-elect also said that despite the killing of two U.S. citizens, the Reagan administration will continue to support the Salvadoran dictatorship. This support is open U.S. intervention in Salvadoran domestic affairs. Washington justifies this action by alleging that uprisings in Latin America are caused by the so-called Soviet and Cuban influence in the area. But nothing can be more false. Communists do not export revolutions. Revolutions are caused by domestic causes.

What is more, [words indistinct] Malcolm Toon, the former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, has recently published an article in the CHIRSTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR in which he states that neither Moscow nor Havana have anything to do with events in El Salvador. This is true of course because, I repeat, communists have not exported any revolution to El Salvador. We stand solidly with the struggle that democrats are carrying out in this country, but this is something different since showing solidarity with El Salvador is the duty of all honest persons no matter where they live.

GROWTH OF THE CUBAN SUGAR INDUSTRY VIEWED

LD071001 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 1 January publishes on page 4 under the headline "Rhythm of Creation: Today Is the Cuban People's National Holiday--Liberation Day" a 1,000-word report by a PRAVDA correspondent tracing the development of the Cuban sugar industry since the 1959 revolution through accounts given in interviews with workers in the industry. The workers are quoted as saying that this development was made possible through "the fraternal aid of the socialist countries and primarily the Soviet Union" and that they have relied on "the aid of our friends from the Soviet Union, the GDR and the other socialist countries."

GRISHKYAVICHUS SPEECH AT LITHUANIAN PARTY PLENUM

WA071154 Vilnyus SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 25 Nov 80 pp 1, 2

[Abridgement of speech by Pyatras Pyatrovich Grishkyavichus, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania, at Lithuanian Central Committee Plenum on 24 November 1980]

[Text] Comrades! As we know, a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee took place on 21 October 1980 to discuss the draft state plan for economic and social development and the state budget of the USSR for 1981. The plenum was held in a businesslike and creative atmosphere, an atmosphere of extreme exactingness and principled demandingness.

A long speech was presented at the plenum by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In this speech, he thoroughly analyzed the state of affairs in the national economy and set forth principled demands regarding fundamental aspects of future socioeconomic development.

Comrade L. I. Brezhnev set forth objectives of exceptionally great political and economic significance in connection with the need to improve the system for supplying the population with food and consumer goods, heighten the effectiveness of industrial and agricultural production and capital construction, further develop the fuel and energy complex, machine building and the chemical industry, perfect planning and administration and improve organizational and political work.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum unanimously, wholly and completely approved the provisions and conclusions set forth by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in this speech and resolved to place them at the basis of the activity of all party, soviet and economic organs and trade-union and Komsomol organizations to fulfill and overfulfill the plan for 1981 and to make fuller use of intensive factors of economic development in order to enhance the welfare of the Soviet people.

The state plan for economic and social development and the state budget of the nation for the first year of the 11th Five-Year Plan were first approved at the plenum and then ratified at a subsequent session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Communists and all Soviet people enthusiastically and heartily approved the decisions of the October CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the speech by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev. They became new and powerful stimuli of the nationwide socialist competition for a fitting tribute to the 26th party congress. A high degree of labor and political enthusiasm prevails everywhere, and a profound awareness of the goals and objectives set forth by our party is apparent. This is conclusive evidence of the Soviet people's unanimous approval of the domestic and foreign policy of the party and state and of the people's close and monolithic unity around the Leninist Central Committee of the CPSU and the Central Committee Politburo with Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at its head.

Objectives of Economic and Social Development of the Lithuanian SSR in 1981

The speech by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum conclusively proved what important positive advantages had been made during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan in all branches of the national economy and in the life of the Soviet people.

The last few years have confirmed the accuracy of the economic strategy of our party, worked out at the 24th and 25th congresses. A new and major step has been taken in the resolution of sizeable and important social problems.

The scales of past accomplishments can be judged quite well from the example of our republic. The economy of Soviet Lithuania, just as that of the entire nation, has risen to a new level in the quantitative and qualitative sense. The further enhancement of public well-being has been guaranteed.

Real per capita income rose 19 percent in the 5 years, the average monthly wage of workers and employees rose almost 17 percent, and kolkhoz wages rose 20 percent. In our republic, 350,000 people were covered by wage-raising measures during the 10th Five-Year Plan. Payments and benefits covered by public consumption funds have been 38 percent higher than during the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

New residential construction in the republic's urban and rural zones will total 9.6 million square meters of living area. This will improve the housing conditions of 750,000 individuals.

The basis of the enhancement of public well-being consists in the steady and dynamic development of the economy and the constant augmentation of production and scientific-technical potential. The republic's industrial output was approximately 28 percent greater than in the Ninth Five-Year Plan, and labor productivity was 17 percent higher.

In the last 5 years, only 1976 and 1977 could be categorized as relatively favorable years for republic agriculture. Even under these conditions, however, preliminary estimates indicate that the average annual gross product of farms of all categories will be 5.5 percent greater than that of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the grain output will be 16 percent greater, the meat output will be almost 7 percent greater, the output of milk will be 5.7 percent greater and the output of eggs will be 15.4 percent greater. Five-year assignments regarding state purchases of all the main agricultural products will be fulfilled, with the exception of the assignments for purchases of sugar beets, livestock and poultry.

The increase in national income over the 5 years will amount to almost 700 million rubles, or an increase of 14 percent.

Capital investments in the national economy will total 8.1 billion rubles and will exceed the investments of the previous 5 years by 20 percent. The value of fixed productive capital in the national economy will be increased by 4.2 billion rubles.

A great deal, as you can see, has been accomplished. It is also no secret, however, that many difficulties arose when five-year-plan assignments were being carried out, and this had a negative effect on economic growth rates. Some of these difficulties were objective in nature. But it is also obvious that the necessary level of economic management and high degree of performance discipline were not ensured in all areas, and that existing reserves and possibilities for heightening production efficiency and making the transition to intensive economic development are not being used to the fullest extent. The criticizing remarks made by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in regard to these matters are completely applicable to our republic as well.

Although republic industry will overfulfill annual plans for the five-year plan as a whole, for a number of objective reasons and as a result of shortcomings in planning and in material supply operations some associations and enterprises will not fulfill five-year-plan assignments regarding production output, overhead cost reductions and profits. Some branches will not reach the levels stipulated in the five-year plan on a number of important counts. In particular, assignments regarding the production of mineral fertilizers, the refining of petroleum and the fishing catch will not be completely fulfilled.

The severe weather conditions of the last 3 years, particularly this year, and the insufficiently productive work to heighten the effectiveness of agricultural production have led to the underfulfillment of plans regarding the output of several farming and animal husbandry products. This has naturally had a negative effect on the work of the processing industry and on the population's supply of some food products.

All of this demands resolute steps to eradicate the causes of slow rates of economic development, exceptionally precise and efficient work in all areas and a high sense of responsibility and discipline on the part of each communist and each laborer.

The nationwide plan and budget for 1981 will continue our party's policy line of raising the Soviet people's standard of living. They envisage continued economic growth

throughout the nation and in each union republic, the reinforcement and development of the unified national economic complex and the maintenance of our homeland's defensive power on the necessary level.

The draft plan for the economic and social development of the Lithuanian SSR in the coming year, submitted to our plenum for examination, will ensure the continued growth of the republic economy. It reflects our party's most important decisions in regard to questions of economic and social policy. The measures envisaged in the plan are aimed at overcoming problems, attaining excellent final results and raising the level of public well-being. The rates of development envisaged for the main branches of physical production are slightly higher than the average annual rates projected for the entire 11th Five-Year Plan. Moreover, further economic development is to be based on the more efficient use of all productive resources. Large sums will be allocated for the development of industry, agriculture, transportation and other branches of physical production. Social measures will occupy an important place.

According to plan, national income should rise 5.2 percent and amount to 6.1 billion rubles. Industrial production output should increase 4.6 percent. The gross agricultural product should be 12.7 percent greater than that expected for this year. Around 1.6 billion rubles in capital investments will be allocated for national economic development, approximately on a par with the 1980 level. At least 87 percent of the increase in national income, 80 percent of the increase in industrial production and the entire increase in the agricultural product are to be derived from higher labor productivity.

Speaking of the group of measures aimed at raising the republic population's standard of living even higher, it should be noted that the plan calls for an increase of 3.1 percent in real per capita income and of 4.4 percent in public consumption funds. In the coming year, 1.8 million square meters of living space is to be constructed.

As you can see, the assignments planned for 1981 are intensive. This is why these assignments must be reinforced by heightened organizational activity, a high degree of discipline and strict control.

Focusing Attention on the Need To Heighten Public Well-Being

When Comrade L. I. Brezhnev defined the main objectives of economic activity in the coming year, the 11th Five-Year Plan and the more distant future, he attached primary significance to the resolution of certain problems on which the living conditions of the Soviet people depend the most.

Attention here must be focused on the improvement of the public food supply system and, consequently, the augmentation of agricultural output.

Everyone knows how much work the party and people performed after the March (1965) CPSU Central Committee Plenum to lay the foundations for a modern agriculture capable of fully satisfying national needs. This is still producing tangible results. The per capita consumption level for the main food products is still rising and consumption patterns are improving.

In spite of this, however, the demand for some food products is still growing more quickly than their supply.

In order to accelerate agricultural development, the October Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee approved the fundamental line regarding the need to continue allocating substantial capital investments and material resources for this branch and improving its technical equipment. A much higher level of exactingness is also needed, so that the allocated resources, mineral fertilizers and technical equipment will be used intelligently and efficiently and will produce the maximum return on investments.

The draft plan for 1981 assigns agricultural workers difficult tasks. Their complexity consists primarily in the fact that the negative effects of this fall's unfavorable weather will have to be dealt with from the very first days of the year. Plans for the sowing of winter crops have not been fulfilled in a number of regions, and it was not

possible to complete the fall plowing on schedule in all rayons. Less organic and mineral fertilizer has been used since the fall. This will considerably increase the volume of spring field work on many farms. The appropriate preparations for this must be made now.

The augmentation of grain production is still of central importance. Our opportunities to enlarge grain fields are limited. This is why our main objective is the augmentation of the yield of grain crops.

Some work has already been performed toward this end. The spring grain seed supply plan has been fulfilled and emergency seed supplies have been established. Far from all of these supplies, however, are of the necessary quality. The important thing now is to take immediate steps to preserve all existing seeds and bring them up to the necessary quality standards. The Ministry of Agriculture must see to the augmentation of vetch, pea, lupine, bean, clover and alfalfa seed supplies. Besides this, additional quantities of spring grain seeds must be put by to compensate for the shortage of winter grain and in the event that ruined crops will have to be resown.

It is time to consider the question of potato cultivation. An extremely troublesome situation has developed in this area, and it cannot be blamed totally on the weather of the last few years. Several mistakes were made in the specialization and concentration of this crop's cultivation. It is becoming obvious that it was a mistake for most farms to stop growing potatoes altogether. This mistake must be corrected. The best way of accomplishing this must be collectively decided by the personnel of administrative bodies, scientists and production workers. One thing is quite clear: The majority of our farms must plant potatoes and use them to feed livestock. Effective steps must also be taken to increase yield.

The situation with regard to potato seed supplies is also disturbing. Republic farms had only put by 95 percent of the potato seed supply by 1 November. Steps must be taken to ensure the unconditional provision of all republic rayons with potato seeds.

This is not the first year that difficulties have been encountered in the fulfillment of sugar beet production and procurement plans. The reasons for our lack of success in this area consist primarily in the failure to adhere to plans and discipline in the improvement of technology for sugar beet cultivation, and farm managers and specialists are still paying little attention, and making little use, of the worthwhile experience accumulated in beet cultivation in the Ukrainian SSR's Yampolskiy Rayon. These and other errors must be resolutely corrected.

Considerable shortcomings can also be found in vegetable, fruit and flax cultivation.

Fodder production is still one of our serious problems. It is important for us to increase the yield of all fodder crops and pastures and improve the variety and structure of fodder crops.

On the whole, the output of coarse and succulent fodder was somewhat greater this year. Progressive technology for the preparation of fodder was used more widely. The haylage production plan was fulfilled, and larger quantities of man-made dehydrated feeds were produced. Plans for the production of hay, silage and food tubers, however, were not fulfilled during any year of the 10th Five-Year Plan.

The problem of providing livestock with fodder will not be completely solved until fundamental changes have taken place in the attitude of some agricultural managers and specialists toward grasslands. Man-made pastures and grasslands occupy 45 percent of all agricultural area in the republic. But the problem is that these lands are being used poorly on many farms. Particularly large unproductive pastures can be found on farms in Shilutskiy, Skuodasskiy, Shidalskiy, Trakayskiy, Vilnyusskiy and Shvenchenskiy rayons. The elimination of shortcomings in the management of grass farming is one of the primary objectives of party, soviet and agricultural organs.

The protein content of fodder is still a pressing problem. It must be solved primarily through the more resolute enlargement of legume plantings and the augmentation of the

relative quantity of leguminous grasses in the grass stand of man-made meadows and pastures.

At the October CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed that the improvement of public food supplies, particularly supplies of such products as meat and milk, will be the main factor determining the Soviet people's standard of living. This wholly and completely applies to our republic as well.

Our most important task at the present time is the successful wintering of livestock. As you know, matters pertaining to this were thoroughly discussed at a recent conference of agricultural workers. The main thing now is to direct all of the efforts of party organizations, farm managers and specialists and all livestock breeders toward the successful attainment of this objective.

The state of affairs in milk production is particularly disturbing. The milk yield is still decreasing and the saleability of milk is still quite low in many rayons. Not all of the reasons for this are objective in nature. It would be wise to recall the analysis of the milk production indicators in the neighboring Utenskiy and Ukmergskiy rayons, recently published in TIYESA. The conditions and potential capabilities of these rayons are approximately identical, and their fodder supplies were also just about equivalent. Livestock breeders in Utenskiy Rayon, however, had much better results. Examples like this are not unique. They testify to varying degrees of activity and efficiency on the part of rayon party, soviet and agricultural organs and to varying degrees of responsibility on their part. We must now take more resolute steps to eradicate these variations.

As I have already mentioned, the amount of fodder put by for this winter is also insufficient, and the quality of much of it is not good. We are sincerely grateful to the CPSU Central Committee and the national government for the great assistance they gave the republic in the procurement of concentrated fodder. For this winter, the republic has already been allocated an additional 500,000 tons of forage grain from state resources. It is extremely important that all of this fodder be fed to livestock only in well-prepared form. This is not a new problem either, but it has not been properly solved as yet. The Ministry of Agriculture and the State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture are not giving enough attention to the establishment of fodder preparation shops and areas. Fodder preparation must be organized properly at each farm so that the equipment involved will operate at full capacity, especially feed pelleting machines and granulators.

In meat production, primary attention must be paid to the maximum use of existing reserves for the fattening of cattle, the preservation of all young stock, including the stock owned by the population, and the sale of this cattle to the state at maximum weight.

We must continue paying a great deal of attention to hog breeding as well. It is particularly important to keep the herd of hogs from diminishing by the end of the year. In addition, hog reproduction must be organized in such a way as to obtain the maximum quantity of piglets in the spring months, to then fatten them with fodder from the new harvest and to sell them to the state the same year.

Besides this, we must continue doing everything within our power to stimulate animal husbandry production for sale to the state on the private plots of kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers, we must give them all-round assistance in this work and we must resolutely combat the incorrect attitude of some farm managers toward this work.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes are not fulfilling the assignment on sales of piglets to the population satisfactorily. Whereas this assignment was considerably overfulfilled by the beginning of November in Shalchininskiy, Panevezhskiy, Tauragskiy, Telshyayskiy, Shirvintskiy and several other rayons, it had only been fulfilled by 67-72 percent in Shvenchenskiy, Rokishkskiy, Utenskiy, Anikshchyayskiy and Lazdiyskiy rayons. Here we must institute stronger contol and ensure that 1981 assignments regarding the raising of piglets and their sale to the population be fulfilled by each farm.

We also need a better solution to the problem of enlarging areas immediately adjacent to the farmsteads of kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers so that each family will be able to have a flower and vegetable garden next to their home. The Ministry of Agriculture must consider this matter within the near future and propose solutions.

At the October CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed that "the enhancement of public well-being also demands serious advances in the production of consumer goods. These advances must affect the quality and assortment of goods as well as their quantity."

Much has been done in the republic in the last 5 years to technically re-equip and remodel many existing enterprises producing consumer goods. Capacities were enlarged for the production of furniture, clothing, woolen fabric, rugs and carpeting. The output of consumer goods has increased 23 percent, including a more than 1.5-fold increase in goods for cultural and consumer purposes and household items. The output of these goods at machine-building enterprises not specializing in consumer goods manufacture has grown 1.9-fold.

The production growth rates specified for the 5 years are being met by light industry and local industry.

It must be said, however, that republic industry has not been fully capable of coping with five-year-plan assignments for consumer goods production. The main reason for this is the nonfulfillment of five-year-plan assignments by the food branches of industry and several enterprises of union ministries. The planned growth rates were not attained in the output of goods for cultural and consumer purposes and household items, including television sets, mini-bikes and primary cells for household appliances. The republic is lagging behind in five-year-plan assignments for the production of leather footwear and several other commodities.

The problems of expanding and mastering the production of new commodities, including the simplest household appliances and devices, were not always solved efficiently.

Several machine-building and metal-processing enterprises are still making an insufficient contribution to the output of consumer goods. This applies above all to the Panevizhis Autocompressor Plant, the Alitus Machine-Building Plant, the Gidroprivod Plant in Shilute, the Vil'nyus Radar Measurement Device Plant imeni 60-Letiye Oktyabrya and several other enterprises.

Problems connected with the quality of consumer goods require special attention. The situation could be and must be significantly improved here as well.

The October CPSU Central Committee Plenum recognized the need to continue developing consumer goods production on the basis of a well-considered, long-range program, capable of uniting the efforts of all branches on which this depends. Gosplan must take a more flexible approach to the planning of production volumes and, in particular, the product assortment. Ministries, production associations and enterprises must strengthen business contacts with trade and react more quickly to consumer demand.

The CPSU Central Committee Plenum singled out residential construction as one of the main socioeconomic objectives that must be the focus of the attention of soviets of people's deputies and should be strictly controlled by local party organs. "This work," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev stressed, "must be regarded as a direct order of the party Central Committee."

The CPSU Central Committee Plenum recognized the need to maintain the present large scales of residential construction in 1981 and in all subsequent years of the 11th Five-Year Plan with simultaneous improvement in the quality of housing. A principled demand was made regarding the resolute cessation of the practice of building new enterprises without establishing adequate housing and cultural and consumer facilities. Economic managers who violate this demand are to be dealt with harshly.

Residential buildings with a total area of almost 2 million square meters are completed each year in the republic. But the assignments regarding their erection, financed by means of state and cooperative capital investments, are regularly underfulfilled. Particularly unsatisfactory work has been performed in the past year in housing construction for farms, enterprises and organizations of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, Goskomselkhoztekhnika, the Ministry of Motor Transport and Highways, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the Vilnyus Gorispolkom and the Birzhayskiy, Kaunasskiy, Plungeskiy, Tauragskiy, Trakayskiy and Vilkavishkskiy rayispolkoms.

Housing is still not being completed on schedule throughout the year, as a result of which tension is created on construction sites by the end of the year, "shock work campaigns" are launched and, in the final analysis, the quality of new residences suffers. This kind of disorder cannot be tolerated.

All questions pertaining to the everyday life of individuals must be a matter of constant concern to party organizations, soviet organs, economic managers and trade unions. Thorough and painstaking concern for the individual must permeate the entire style of their work.

Questions connected with public supply systems must be put under special control now.

Workers in the food branches of industry and trade must now ensure the uninterrupted provision of the population with groceries and the efficient use of existing possibilities and reserves. Strict measures must be taken to ensure the efficient use of agricultural raw materials and to prevent the loss of these materials during storage and processing.

Difficulties with the potato supply have increased the demand for bakery goods, pasta and groats. In connection with this, the union government has considerably augmented our republic's market stocks of these products. The ministries of the food industry, procurement and trade and the Lithuanian SSR Union of Consumer Societies must mobilize resources to produce these items in accordance with public demand. The Ministry of the Food Industry must increase the output of canned fruits and vegetables from raw materials procured in sufficient quantities. This applies above all to cabbage, carrots and beets.

City and rayon party committees, gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms and the heads of ministries and departments must ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the decisions and instructions of the party Central Committee and government in regard to all questions pertaining to the everyday life of individuals.

Heightening the Effectiveness of Social Production

The October (1980) CPSU Central Committee Plenum emphatically stressed that the attainment of our main goal--the constant enhancement of public well-being--will be unthinkable without heightened economic effectiveness and the intensification of all social production. A new large step is to be taken during the 11th Five-Year Plan to solve this key problem.

The effectiveness of work in all branches of the national economy depends to a tremendous degree on uninterrupted supplies of fuel and energy. Although the demand for energy as a whole is essentially being satisfied, it is obvious that there have been serious interruptions in the supply of the national economy with coal, petroleum products and other types of energy resources.

The situation has become more complex in the construction of power engineering facilities. Capital investments in the Kayshyadoris Hydraulic Accumulator and Vilnyus Heat and Power plants will not be used in their entirety this year, and there have been some delays in the construction of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant.

Errors committed during the construction of the Mazheykyay TET's led to stoppages in its operation, and these, in turn, had a negative effect on the republic supply of petroleum

products. The Main Production Administration for Power Engineering and Electrification, the Administration for the Construction of Power Engineering Facilities of the Lithuanian SSR and the Western Construction Administration must take resolute steps to prevent delays in the construction of power engineering facilities and ensure the unconditional fulfillment of plan assignments.

The results of work in the main branches of the republic economy would be more impressive if shortcomings could be avoided in material and technical supply operations. The problem of supplying industrial enterprises and construction organizations with metal, lumber, chemicals and other types of crude resources and other materials has been on the agenda for a long time. Gossnab and the Lithuanian State Committee for Petroleum Products must improve their work, considerably improve the use of material and technical supply funds and learn to maneuver existing resources better.

The scales of the development of our economy call for a further increase in the efficiency with which material resources are utilized and strictly conserved. Some work is being done toward this end. Unfortunately, however, there are cases involving the wasteful and inefficient use of materials. Inspections have revealed considerable overexpenditures of metal at enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry and several machine-building plants of union jurisdiction. Construction organizations and woodworking enterprises are not taking the necessary steps to conserve lumber, although the shortage of this material is a constant problem.

Cases of this kind cannot be tolerated. The heads of ministries and departments, associations and enterprises, urban and rayon party committees and organs of people's control must wage a more intense struggle for conservation and economy and against cases of mismanagement.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania has repeatedly criticized the work of the transportation branch, particularly the railroads, for the nonfulfillment of established freight plans, but the situation is still being corrected too slowly.

The republic Committee of People's Control and the operational headquarters of party gorkoms and raykoms must make greater demands on the heads of industrial, construction and transport enterprises in regard to the loading and unloading of railroad cars on the local level. In each case of unjustified delays in the unloading of cars and containers, the guilty parties must bear personal liability.

Motor transport is being assigned an increasingly important role in the shipment of freight. Recent measures in this field have resulted in a change for the better. In spite of difficulties, public transport enterprises have begun to satisfy the national economy's transport needs more satisfactorily and have greatly assisted agriculture. The indicators of the use of the motor vehicle park for the ministry as a whole have improved slightly.

Nonetheless, public transport enterprises still have considerable reserves for the enhancement of operational efficiency: There are still too many empty runs, vehicles are standing idle too long while they are being loaded and unloaded, and the coefficient of vehicle park runs is rising too slowly. The administrators of motor transport enterprises must be assigned more responsibility for the better use of vehicles.

In capital construction, just as in the past, the most important problem is the need to concentrate resources in priority projects and projects of the greatest socioeconomic significance, reduce volumes of unfinished construction and ensure the timely completion of priority projects.

This year our main construction organizations improved their operations somewhat. They have performed more construction and installation work than during the same period last year, and they have completed more production facilities, residential buildings and other projects. Labor productivity has risen and construction worker collectives have become more stable.

Even this year, however, they will not fulfill the plans for the construction of production facilities for the chemical, electrical equipment and furniture industries, agriculture and public utilities, kindergartens and nurseries and consumer service, scientific and cultural facilities.

The state of affairs with regard to several new facilities is disturbing. There have been considerable delays in their construction. Builders have been criticized more than once for not giving enough attention to priority projects. Unfortunately, even this year the necessary steps were not taken to concentrate material and labor resources in these projects. On the contrary, work on these construction sites has sometimes been even slower than on ordinary sites. For example, the Shyaulyay Construction Trust fulfilled the plan for construction and installation operations as a whole by 94 percent, but in priority projects the figure was only 87 percent. The respective figures were 93 and 87 percent in the case of the Kaunasstroy Trust, and 96 and 90 percent in the case of the Alitus Construction Trust. This mistaken practice is absolutely inconsistent with our party's demands for the heightened effectiveness of capital construction, and it must be resolutely eradicated.

Today we must admit once again that the underfulfillment of plans for construction and installation work will considerably augment the 1981 programs of some organizations of the ministries of construction and rural construction. Gosplan must carefully reassess the practicability of these plans in conjunction with the appropriate ministries and departments, party gorkoms and raykoms, gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms.

Raising the Level of Administration and Economic Management and Improving Organizational and Political Work

The completion of the sizeable and responsible tasks set forth by the October CPSU Central Committee Plenum will depend to a tremendous degree on the further improvement of planning and administration and the improvement of all our organizational and political work.

The fundamental instructions issued at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum on the extensive use of the special program method in planning, on provisions for the correct correlation between centralism and the democratic principle in economic management and on the further improvement of the organizational structure of management are exceptionally important.

The implementation of these instructions will require that our personnel be highly competent, businesslike and responsible, and display creative initiative and the ability to mobilize factors which will ensure the all-round intensification of production, the acceleration of technological progress and the quicker elevation of labor productivity levels.

Many of today's problems stem precisely from shortcomings in administration. Important problems in economic development are still often solved without thorough and comprehensive analysis. Some administrators do not take the trouble to carefully weigh all the facts, consider all possibilities and make an intelligent, scientifically sound administrative decision.

It is also apparent that the objective, step-by-step and purposeful analysis of ongoing economic and social processes is the weak link in many ministries and departments, particularly the Central Statistical Administration. Without in-depth analysis, as we know, it is impossible to manage the economy and social development competently or to look into the future.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania and the republic Council of Ministers have the right to expect considerable assistance from academic and sectorial scientific research institutes in the resolution of all existing problems.

The administrative system, ranging from enterprises and kolkhozes all the way to republic ministries and departments, includes many qualified specialists. It must be said, however, that many of them often have little effect on the state of affairs in the

national economy, and this is primarily because their decisions are not always sufficiently reinforced with the necessary organizational work on the local level. The supervision of performance levels is still another of the weak links in the administrative system. The republic Council of Ministers must take more effective steps to improve the activities of administrative personnel on all levels and to strengthen state discipline. It is also important to take an extremely careful approach to the fulfillment of assignments regarding the reduction of the administrative staff with the simultaneous improvement of its structure and enhancement of its operational results.

Successful preparations for a fitting tribute to the 26th congress of our party will depend largely on the comprehensive enhancement of the operational efficiency of all party links and the initiative and responsibility of all communists and each worker.

The possibilities of the report and election campaign within the party must be fully utilized for this purpose. Today we can say that we are carrying out this important CPSU Central Committee directive. In party links on the lowest level and primary party organizations, reports and elections were held in an orderly and businesslike manner, with the mobilization of all communists and all laborers for the unconditional fulfillment of the plan for economic and social development and the socialist commitments of the last year of this five-year plan.

A distinctive feature of these meetings was a high degree of political enthusiasm on the part of communists, and their desire to find opportunities and ways to improve activities in all areas of party and economic construction and lay a solid foundation for uninterrupted work from the first days of 1981.

Almost one out of every three communists took part in the long and principled discussion which took place at meetings in primary party organizations. In the majority of cases, this discussion did not consist of general phrases, but of specific remarks, with a principled assessment of the situation and specific criticism of shortcomings. Action has already been taken on half of the critical remarks and proposals. In addition to taking action on these comments and suggestions, it is essential to carefully analyze and generalize accumulated positive experience and bring it to the attention of the general public.

A businesslike tone, self-criticism and an adherence to principle have also been characteristic of the city and rayon party conferences that have just begun. The results of the fulfillment of 25th CPSU Congress decisions are being discussed in party organizations and at conferences, and the domestic and foreign policy of the party, the decisions of the October (1980) CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the provisions and conclusions set forth in Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's speech at the plenum are being wholly and completely supported and approved.

Party conferences must continue the work done at party meetings to heighten the unity and militancy of all party links. They must give thorough consideration to all of the issues and problems discussed at the October (1980) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, and the decisions of the plenum must determine the entire course and spirit of conference work.

In connection with the decisions of the October CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, party organizations must launch a broad campaign of agitation and propaganda work, enlisting the services of administrative personnel, the sizeable ideological aktiv and the mass media.

In all of the work to elucidate plenum decisions, emphasis must be placed on the significance of the personal efforts of each Soviet individual to carry out the party's plans, to further strengthen the might of the homeland and to enhance public well-being. Each individual must be fully aware that wealth, material goods and the bases of a further rise in the standard of living are the result of labor and nothing but labor so that he will fully realize and behave in accordance with the irrefutable fact that it is only possible to distribute and consume the quantity that has been produced.

Little more than a month stands between us and the end of the 10th Five-Year Plan. There is now no more important task than shock labor and the fulfillment of plans and socialist commitments in a fitting tribute to the 26th Congress of the CPSU and the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Lithuania.

Allow me to assure, in your behalf, the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Comrade L. I. Brezhnev personally that the communists and all laborers of Soviet Lithuania will do everything within their power to implement the decisions of the October (1980) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, successfully complete the five-year plan and offer a fitting tribute to the 26th congress of our Leninist party.

BAGRAMOV HAILS LENINIST NATIONALITIES POLICY

LD071521 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 80 Morning Edition p 2

[Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Prof E. Bagramov article: "Indissoluble Union"]

[Text] Addressing voters in Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, named as the main trend in the development of social relations in our country in the seventies the further consolidation of the unity and cohesion of Soviet society. An integral part of this process is the cohesion of nations and ethnic groups--the tangible embodiment of the Leninist nationalities policy and one of Soviet society's great achievements.

The overcoming of centuries-old backwardness and the attainment of effective equality among peoples, the drawing of working people of different nationalities into the common stream of building the new society and the transition to socialism--bypassing capitalism--on the part of a number of formerly backward peoples were without precedent in world history.

On 30 December 1922 the First All-Union Congress of Soviets proclaimed the formation of a multinational union state--the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Created by Lenin's genius and being the result of the party's theoretical and political work and diverse experience, it reflected our peoples' aspirations.

The Soviet experience of state building and of establishing fraternal cooperation between big and small peoples divided in the past by profound religious and cultural differences, the implementation of the cultural revolution, which brought advanced socialist civilization to many national and ethnic groups formerly doomed to slow extinction--all this is socialism's precious possession, of worldwide historical significance.

"Your country," the prominent British historian A. Toynbee wrote to Soviet Academician N.I. Konrad, "is made up of so many peoples, speaking such different languages and having inherited such different cultures, that it is a model of the world as a whole, and by combining these cultural and linguistic diversities in economic, social and political unity on a federal basis you have demonstrated in the Soviet Union how things could be in the world as a whole and how things will, I hope, be done in future."

To resolve the nationalities question in our country--and it was one of the most complex problems of the revolutionary transformation--it was not enough to proclaim the nations' equality and their right to self-determination. It was necessary to help formerly oppressed peoples, backward in their historical development, in practice to make a leap into the future in an unprecedently short space of time. And that required selfless fraternal assistance to other peoples on the part of those nations which had forged ahead--above all the Russian people.

The Communist Party and the socialist state proceeded on the basis of the Leninist thesis that only the greatest possible attentiveness toward different nations' interests eliminates the ground for conflicts and creates mutual trust among working people.

Centralized planning alongside support for local initiative, the purposeful expenditure of budget resources with a view to ensuring higher development rates in formerly backward regions, the sending of the most experienced workers to national backwoods, the rebasing in eastern regions of whole enterprises and skilled worker cadres from the center--all these are important elements in the Leninist nationalities policy. The fruits of this policy are particularly evident now.

This year's celebration of the 60th anniversaries of the formation of the Azerbaijan, Kazakh and Armenian SSR's is a vivid demonstration of the triumph of the ideas of friendship and fraternity between peoples.

Thanks to the day-to-day activity of party and state organizations at the center and locally, national relations in our country have reached a stage of maturity corresponding to the conditions of developed socialism.

This is expressed above all in the high level of development of the all-union economy--the unified national economic complex; in the all-round development and indissoluble unity of federal [soyuznaya] statehood [gosudarstvennost] and the republics' national statehood; in the flourishing, rapprochement and mutual enrichment of the cultures of the socialist nations and ethnic groups; and in the establishment of the ideology of Marxism-Leninism, socialist internationalism and friendship between peoples.

As the new USSR Constitution notes, in our society, on the basis of the rapprochement between all classes and social strata, the legal and actual equality of all nations and ethnic groups and their fraternal cooperation, a historically new community of people has emerged--the Soviet people. The development of relations between nations is guided by the party's purposeful nationalities policy. Our national economic plans invariably take into account the needs and economic and social features of the development of each nation and ethnic group and ensure the proportional, coordinated development of the republics' economies and at the same time the increased efficiency of the whole country's national economy.

Of course,the conditions for the implementation of the Leninist nationalities policy have changed greatly in developed socialist society. Formerly the priority task was to ensure the speediest development rates for formerly backward nations and ethnic groups. Now that the republics' levels of economic development have been largely equalized, every nation makes a worthy contribution to the common cause of building socialism. And assistance to each other has become a law of life for all nations and ethnic groups.

Every Soviet working person, whatever corner of our motherland he works in, is constantly aware of his involvement in the labor of the entire Soviet people. Socialist competition between republics, krays, oblasts, cities and enterprises, which has been launched with particular force at present in connection with preparations for the 26th CPSU Congress, reveals new horizons in the creative labor of millions of people.

In implementing the 25th CPSU Congress decisions, our people, under the party's leadership, have taken a major new step in the development of the national economy and the resolution of major and important social tasks during the 10th 5-Year Plan years, as Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted at the CPSU Central Committee October (1980) Plenum.

The CPSU Central Committee's draft for the 26th party congress opens up impressive prospects for the Soviet people. Among the main tasks in the country's economic and social development the party sets the task of promoting the all-round development and rapprochement of nations and ethnic groups in the USSR, the strengthening of society's social homogeneity and the consolidation of the ideological and political unity of the Soviet people as a new historic community.

The strengthening of union principles in the life of our multinational state and the development of local initiative help to further deepen socialist democracy and involve working people of all the USSR's nations and ethnic groups increasingly extensively in the process of the communist transformation of all aspects of our life.

The changes in the peoples' cultural life are equally impressive. The revolution roused them to conscious creative activity and brought into the foreground of history the lower strata of the people's masses, who were formerly the most weighed down by social and national oppression. State and public figures, outstanding scientists and writers whose names are now famous far beyond our motherland's bounds emerged from the depths of the people. Socialism created a new climate in internation relations and raised high the level of human feelings.

The manifestations of nationalism and national narrowmindedness which are still sometimes encountered are being eliminated in an atmosphere of genuine collectivism, comradeship and international fraternity. The Soviet people's creative enthusiasm, their moral health and their cohesion around the Leninist party are the guarantee of new successes in the struggle to build communism.

Bourgeois critics of Soviet nationalities policy find themselves in a difficult position. On the one hand, they are not capable of concealing the tremendous progress achieved by the USSR's peoples under socialism. "Insofar as the Soviet Union has ultimately proven," we read in a book by Prof (A. Kobben) of London University, "that it has successfully resolved the problem of rallying the most diverse ethnic groups in a unified, great federation, this success is explained largely by the steps it took from the very first to bring the peoples into the orbit of comprehensive industrial development and to eliminate the source of economic inequality and exploitation."

At the same time bourgeois political science and sociology--as far as the dominant trend is concerned--proceed on the basis of the idea, which they themselves created, that the nationalities question is an almost insoluble problem of society's life. Anticommunist ideologists are agitated by the very idea that the Soviet example is becoming incrreasingly attractive, particularly in developing countries.

The more obvious the tremendous achievements of the Leninist nationalities policy and the stronger the Soviet people's cohesion around the Leninist party, the fiercer are the attempts by those ideologists to discredit the Soviet system.

Nothing the exacerbation of internation conflicts in the nonsocialist world, bourgeois ideologists try to deceive the masses by using the same yardstick to characterize mutual relations between peoples in the USSR.

The great historic community of the Soviet people is depicted by bourgeois propaganda either as a kind of conglomerate of peoples divided by centuries-old traditions, or as the result of a policy of Russification and forcible knocking together of a unified nation. They characterize the steady process of rapprochement between nations, which accelerates their overall progress, as all but a relapse into the policy of assimilation characteristic of imperialism. The growth and strengthening of national pride and national dignity, which are the natural result of socialism's victory and which take place on the basis of the strengthening of Soviet people's international awareness, are depicted in a distorted way by imperialist propaganda.

Thus Canadian Professor T. Rakowska-Harmstone, discussing the "dialectics of nationalism in the USSR" in the American journal PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM, did not, it transpires, find a "sense of belonging to a unified Soviet nationality" among our country's peoples. That being so, the policy of rapprochement of nations is therefore misfiring. At the same time it is well known that Soviet power has not set the task of creating a "unified Soviet nationality"--that is the fruit of idle invention.

Belonging to the Soviet people as a social and international community, while it strengthens the feeling of all-Soviet pride, by no means implies the depreciation of national feelings. Rapprochement between nations means the growth of fraternal cooperation and mutual assistance among peoples and the strengthening of the unified socialist way of life, which is characterized precisely by a solicitous attitude toward the genuine values and traditions of all nations and ethnic groups.

The force and vitality of the Leninist nationalities policy lie in the fact that it consistently combines the international and national interests of the USSR's peoples.

In the interesting, instructive book by Sh.R. Rashidov, first secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee, entitled "Soviet Uzbekistan," the prerevolutionary region is compared with Uzbekistan today. The reader is presented with a picture of radical transformations which have transformed a region of feudal principles and a backward economy into a republic with high-powered industry, advanced agriculture and highly developed science and culture--a republic where people of all nationalities are united by unbreakable bonds of fraternal friendship.

And it is in vain that socialism's enemies wait for peoples oriented toward a communist future to decide they want to reverse the course of their life. Leninism and the ideas of friendship and fraternity between peoples have been and remain the guiding star for the peoples of the USSR.

ARMENIAN KGB CHIEF HITS WEST'S 'TACTICAL RUSES'

LD071123 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 20 Dec 80 pp 1, 3

[ARMENPRESS report: "Guarding October's Gains: Ceremonial Meeting Devoted to the 60th Anniversary of the Armenian SSR's State Security Organs"]

[Excerpts] Armenian Chekists, who today celebrate together with our republic's working people the 60th anniversary of Armenia's Cheka-KGB, have traveled a combat path in the ranks of the knights of shield and sword.

A solemn meeting of the Yerevan Armenian CP Gorkom held in the A. Khachaturyan Grand Concert Hall on 19 December jointly with representatives of the republic's public organizations and state security organs was devoted to this portentous date.

Maj Gen M.A. Yuzbashyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR KGB, read out a greetings message from Yu. V. Andropov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR KGB. Prlonged applause resounded in the hall.

Recently, M.A. Yuzbashyan pointed out, aggressive imperialist circles, primarily in the United States, have sharply exacerbated the international situation.

The opponents of detente are confronted with the firm and confident stand of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community aimed at strengthening peace. This policy is increasingly meeting with the understanding and support of the broadest sections of the peoples of all continents.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has pointed out that "the greater the reduction in imperialism's potential for ruling other countries and peoples. the more fiercely its most aggressive and shortsighted representatives react to this."

Audible in the general anti-Soviet chorus are also Dashnak voices [Dashnaks are "members of the (Dashnaktsutyun) Armenian counterrevolutionary bourgeois-nationalist party"] which are trying to continue their subversive activity against Soviet power by resorting to new tactical ruses. In so doing they are endeavoring to blunt our vigilance.

The party points to the need constantly to enhance political vigilance and draw the necessary conclusions from the international situation which is taking shape and the hostile aspirations of the enemy's special services.

Our enemies' efforts are in vain, the speaker said. As in the past. so now and in the future they are doomed to failure. They are countered by the monolithic unity of the Soviet people rallied around the Communist Party. The intrigues of special services are being and will be decisively suppressed by the state security organs--a dependable tool in the party's hands for the struggle against the enemies of socialism.

The state security organs enjoy deserved prestige and the support of the working people in our country. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev evaluated them highly in the report to the 25th CPSU Congress: "The state security organs reliably protect Soviet society against the subversive actions of imperialist states' intelligence services, various kinds of foreign anti-Soviet centers and other hostile elements. Their work is organized in accordance with the demands stemming from the international situation and the development of Soviet society."

This assessment imposes a high responsibility, the speaker emphasized, and the Chekists are fully aware of this, endeavoring as they do to serve the interests of the party and the people as well as possible through their practical activity.

SOLOMENTSEV PRESENTS RSFSR ART, LITERATURE PRIZES

LD071651 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 80 p 2

[TASS report: "RSFSR Prizes"]

[Text] The 1980 RSFSR state prizes in the fields of literature, art and architecture were presented in Moscow 26 December.

M.S. Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, presented the recipients with their winners' certificates and honor badges. He conveyed to the winners cordial congratulations and wishes for new creative achievements from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

The winners expressed sincere gratutude for the high assessment of their labor and gave assurances that they would devote all their strength and talent to serving the socialist homeland.

FURTHER BREZHNEV GREETINGS ON PLAN FULFILLMENT

Lebedinskoye Mining Combine

LD070941 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 81 p 1

["Cordial Congratulations" --PRAVDA headline]

[Text] To the construction workers, fitters, commissioning workers, party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations and to all those who took part in the construction of the Lebedinskoye mining and concentration combine of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy:

Dear comrades, I cordially congratulate you on a new labor victory, the fulfillment ahead of schedule of the 5-year program of construction and putting into operation of capacities for obtaining and processing 23 million tons of iron ore at the Lebedinskoye mining and concentration combine, one of the biggest ore mining enterprise in the Kursk magentic anomaly. The introduction and assimilation of the new capacities at the combine have permitted a three-fold increase in the 10th 5-Year Plan of production of iron ore concentrate in comparison with the Ninth 5-Year Plan. It is important to note that you have ensured the creation of big capacities in a comprehensive fashion, right through the technolocial cycle from extraction of the raw material up to obtaining the combine's final product--high-quality iron-ore pellets. Along with the commissioning of production installations, social and consumer tasks are also being resolved. Your achievement is the result of a creative attitude, selfless labor by construction workers and miners, and skillful organizational and political work by party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations.

I wish you, dear comrades, new labor successes for the good of our homeland and express confidence that the combine's construction workers and miners will give a worthy welcome to the 26th congress of our own Communist Party.

[Signed] L. Brezhnev

Cherepovets Steel Plant

LD071311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] To all participants in the construction of the oxygen converter shop of Cherepovets' USSR 50th anniversary metallurgical plant.

Dear comrades:

I cordially congratulate you on your great labor triumph--the completion of the construction and the commissioning of the oxygen converter shop, capacity 2 million tons of steel per annum, at the Cherepovets Metallurgical Plant. The creation in a short space of time of a new steel-smelting complex, one of the country's biggest, is a weighty contribution to the development of the metallurgical industry in the 10th 5-Year Plan, a fine new year labot gift from the people of Cherepovets for our great homeland. Your successes were possible thanks to the selfless work and high degree of professional skill of builders, assemblymen, operators, designers, machine-builders, and all the participants in the construction of installations of modern metallurgical production. They are the result of the great organizational and political-educational work of party, trade union and Komsomol organizations to mobilize collectives for the successful fulfillment of set plans and targets. The CPSU Central Committee expresses certainty that you will be in the front ranks of socialist competition to see in 26th CPSU Congress in a fitting manner, that you will in a short space of time master the commissioned capacities and successfully use the accumulated wealth of experience for the accelerated construction of a powerful new blast furnace. I congratulate you, dear comrades, on the new year and wish you health and new labor achievements in the 11th 5-Year Plan.

[Signed] L. Brezhnev

ROMANOV ON LENINGRAD INDUSTRY'S UPCOMING TASKS

LD071259 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 80 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Our Shock Labor for the Motherland and Party"]

[Excerpt] A party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations aktiv meeting devoted to the greetings message of Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was held in the Smolnyy's auditorium yesterday jointly with representatives of working people's collectives of Leningrad and the oblast.

The meeting was opened by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom.

With tremendous enthusiasm the Politburo of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee headed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev was elected honorary presidium member by the meeting participants.

The meeting was addressed by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningradskiy Obkom.

After reading out the text of the greetings message from L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, he said:

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the obkom, the oblispolkom, the gorispolkom, the oblast trade union council, the Komsomol oblast committee and all those to whom this greetings message is addressed, to express cordial gratitude to the party's Central Committee and to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally for their high evaluation of Leningrad people's labor successes.

This is further convincing evidence of the tremendous attention which our party devotes to the fulfillment of the outlined plans and adopted pledges by every republic and every kray and oblast.

In his greetings message Leonid Ilich evaluated positively the contribution by Leningrad's people to implementing the historic 25th CPSU Congress decisions and to realizing very important tasks, including the accelerated development of the fuel and energy complex and shipbuilding and the creation and introduction into the national economy of scientific and technical achievements. The successes of agricultural, construction and transportation workers have received a high assessment. A further enhancement of the people's well-being has been recorded.

These weighty achievements are the result of the selfless work of all the working people of Leningrad and the oblast and of the purposeful actions of party, soviet and economic organs and trade union and Komsomol organizations, the result of widespread competition under the slogan "From the High Quality of Everyone's Work to the High Efficiency of the Collective's Labor!" This is also further confirmation of the constant concern of the party's Central Committee and the Soviet state for improving all aspects of the life and work of the people of Leningrad.

We are particularly pleased that victory has been achieved at a time when the Soviet people and all progressive mankind have welcomed with profound satisfaction the greetings message from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on his birthday and on his being awarded a second Order of the October Revolution.

With this high award, which features a silhouette of the legendary cruiser Aurora, the motherland has marked the great services of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, outstanding continuer of the cause of Lenin and the Great October Socialist Revolution, to the Communist Party and the Soviet state and his exceptionally fruitful activity in strengthening our country's economic, political and defense might, in further enhancing the people's well-being and in the struggle for peace on earth.

Allow me, comrades, on your behalf and on behalf of all the people of Leningrad, to congratulate dear Leonid Ilich warmly and cordially on the deserved award and to wish him good health, happiness and new successes in his idefatigable activity in the name of the triumph of the ideas of peace and communism:

The draft main guidelines for the economic and social development in the 11th 5-Year Plan and in the period up to 1990 provide convincing new evidence of the correctness of the course formulated by the party's Central Committee in domestic and foreign policy.

During the discussion of this very important political document the people of Leningrad are making specific suggestions aimed at improving production efficency and work quality and at achieving high end-results.

We have worked well, comrades, in the current 5-year plan and its concluding year. I would especially like to say that, despite the difficulties, agricultural, transportation and construction workers are coping successfully with the set tasks. I am pleased to report that the first output from a new industrial complex for the production of compound mineral fertilizers was obtained yesterday at the Fosforit Association.

A shock finnish to the 10th 5-Year Plan in all sectors of the economy will be the foundation of a successful start to the new 5-year period. This is why it is our common priority task to consolidate what has been achieved and persistently commission intensive factors of economic growth and the solution of social questions.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev;s greetings message is a strong mobilizing factor in further enhancing the effectiveness of the socialist competition for a fitting greeting to the next, 26th party congress. In response to the high assessment the labor collectives of industrial and agricultural enterprises and of construction, transportation and scientific organizations and adopting new, stepped-up pledges for 1961.

These pledges provide, in particular, for a further increase in production volumes through increases preferential growth in labor productivity; the creation and assimilation of modern new types of equipment; the ahead-of-schedule delivery of power units for a number of very important construction projects in the country in time for the 26th party congress; the commissioning of the fourth power unit at the Leningrad V.I. Lenin AES.

Special attention is being devoted to the comprehensive mechanization and automation of production, the realization of targeted programs for the introduction of the most efficient scientific and technical achievements and the raising of the technical standard and quality of output.

Agricultural workers will sell the state no less than 550,000 tons of potatoes and vegetables; almost 800,000 tons of milk; approximately 200,000 tons of meat and more than 1.25 billion eggs.

In the sphere of capital construction the line of reducing construction times and the time taken to start up newly commissioned production facilities and of raising the quality of housing and cultural and domestic construction will be pursued persistently.

As we see, high targets are being outlined. In order to ensure that they are achieved, it is necessary to enhance responsibility in all links of the Leningrad economy and to create in every collective and at every work place all conditions for highly productive shock labor, for economizing on material and labor resources and for successfully fulfilling the targets for the first year of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

Allow me, dear comrades, to assure the CPSU Central Committee, its Politburo and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally that the Leningrad party organization and the working people of the city and oblast, continuing the glorious revolutionary and labor traditions of the party and the Soviet people, will achieve new successes in realizing the CPSU's economic and social policy and will fittingly greet our glorious Leninist party's 26th congress.

SIBERIAN RIVER TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS EXAMINED

LD071157 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 3 January 1981 carries on page 1 a 900-word unattributed report entitled "The Lessons of the Navigational Season" under the rubric "Following Up" summing up the results of the 1980 navigational season in the West Siberian river transportation system and discussing letters received by the newspaper's editorial office following criticisms of shortcomings "hampering the smooth flow of freight to the Tyumen oilfields and construction sites at the height of the northern summer" contained in articles published in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on 22 May 1980 and 12 July 1980. The article states that "this year's navigational season was much more successful than previous ones" but goes on to cite continuing shortcomings, including the Tyumenskiy Obkom's failure to create an oblast-level headquarters to coordinate the efforts of the region's river transportation workers in the 1980 season, delays in deliveries of goods to river ports and the construction of housing for Siberian river transportation workers, and failure to strengthen steamship companies' material and technical base.

SHIBAYEV, NOVIKOV AT MINISTRY COLLECTIVE MEETING

LD051241 Moscow TRUD in Russian 31 Dec 80 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Shock Vigil"]

[Text] A meeting of the collective of the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work took place yesterday. Those assembled applauded a greeting from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. B.V. Bakin, USSR minister of installation and special construction work, read out the text of the greeting.

On behalf of the sector's working people the meeting participants stated that they will greet the 26th CPSU Congress with new labor successes and will make every effort to fulfill successfully the plans drafted for the next 5-year plan.

A.I. Shibayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, I.T. Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee and the leaders of various ministries and departments were at the meeting.

YEPISHEV ADDRESSES TRANSBAYKAL CONFERENCE

LD071009 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Dec 80 p 2

[Correspondent Lt Col V. Moroz report: "From Positions of High Demands"]

[Excerpts] Vigilance, combat readiness.... These words were heard particularly frequently from the rostrum of the Transbaykal Military District party conference. To evaluate the results of each day, of each study hour by their contribution to increasing the combat readiness of units and subunits--this was the question raised in the reports and speeches. Lt Gen V. Lomov, member of the Military Council and chief of the district Political Directorate, delivered a report on the condition and measures for improving party-political work on increasing the personnel's combat readiness, training and education. The report of Army Gen G. Salmanov, commander of the district, was devoted to the CPSU Central Committee's draft for the 26th party congress "The Main Guidelines for the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1981-1985 and the Period Through 1990" and to the party organizations' tasks in clarifying and discussing it.

Army Gen A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, addressed the conference. He conveyed to the conference delegates and, through them, to all communists and all Transbaykal servicemen a combat communist greeting from Marshal of t..e Soviet Union L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the USSR Defense Council.

In his speech he noted that the party conferences bringing the district party organizations' reports and elections to a close are being held at a significant time. In recent days the entire life and activity of the Soviet people and armed forces' personnel are proceeding under the sign of active preparation for the 26th CPSU Congress.

In actively preparing for the congress, Soviet people repeatedly look to the Communist Party--the leading and directing force of our society. The party's wise and far-sighted policy was embodied with new force in the CPSU Central Committee October (1980) Plenum decisions and in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's plenum speech. These documents analyzed comprehensively the main problems of the country's socioeconomic development and made important generalizations on the basic problems of building communism.

Nowadays, when an improtant new stage connected with the nationwide discussion of the CPSU Central Committee draft "The Main Guidelines for the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1981-1985 and the Period Through 1990" has ensued in preparation for the congress, the main point is to bring to the awareness of servicemen, workers and employees a profound and clear understanding of the essence and significance of the 11th 5-Year Plan, to take account of all the proposals made and to make skillful use of the personnel's high patriotic enthusiasm so as to achieve maximum indicators for the forces' combat readiness and for the high-quality achievement of the training year's tasks.

The Communist Party and all Soviet people are approaching the congress in a good, optimistic mood. The period since the 25th CPSU Congress has brought positive results in both domestic and foreign policy. Now, in the days which bring the 10th 5-Year Plan to a close, there is every justification for saying that the past 5-year period will occupy a worthy place in the history of our people's heroic achievements. Our motherland's might has strengthened, the country's economic and defense potential has grown and the Soviet people's material prosperity has increased. What has been achieved is the result of the tireless, fruitful activity of the whole party, the Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev. This is the fourth decade in which our country has been living under conditions of peace and occupied with peaceful creation--and this is our great achievement.

At the same time, Army Gen A. Yepishev further noted, we must be clearly aware that the international situation has once again become complicated. The forces of aggression are stirring up the arms race, fanning hotbeds of military confrontation in various regions of the world and provoking new conflicts. The main culprits in the worsening of the international atmosphere are the United States and its NATO partners, and also the Beijing hegemonists.

In this situation our party, together with the socialist countries' fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties, is resolutely and consistently pursuing a peace policy while combining it with a strengthening of defense.

The soldiers of the Transbaykal Military District are making a weighty contribution to the common cause of armed defense. Quite a lot has been done here since the 25th CPSU Congress, particularly since Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's 1978 visit to areas of Siberia and the Far East, to increase the combat readiness of formations, units and subunits and to raise their field and air training to a new standard. The results of military labor are particularly high where purposefulness and specificity are inherent in party-political work, where it is closely coordinated with the urgent tasks of combat training and takes account of the characteristics of the real situation.

But it would be a serious error to overestimate what has been done. In analyzing what has been achieved, particular attention must be paid to unfinished tasks, and shortcomings in the leadership of forces' training and in party-political work must be exposed and eliminated as they occur. This is all the more important since the tasks facing the forces are becoming more complex all the time.

The attention of military councils, commanders, political organs, headquarters, party organizations and all communists must be concentrated on preparing a fitting greeting to the forthcoming party congress, on studying its decisions in depth and on implementing them, on strengthning personnel's cohesion around the party and, on that basis, further increasing vigilance and combat readiness.

The chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate dwelt in detail on the peculiarities of the tasks facing district personnel and communists, on those questions not fully resolved and on reserves not yet being utilized. He noted that in this training year, as in the last, the struggle for high-quality combat training remains the core of party-political work. In this the following guidelines must be observed in the work of military councils, commanders, political workers and party organizations: struggle to increase field and air training and tactical-fire training and readiness for night operations; ensure study in depth and practical mastery of combat hardware and weaponry; constantly improve the quality of officer personnel's professional training.

We must not close our eyes to the fact that not all political organs and party organizations in the district, especially at headquarters, appriase the state of combat training with partyminded exactingness and principle. Reaction to shortcomings in personnel training is not always timely. It is precisely for this reason that certain subunits and units have not fulfilled their socialist pledges. It is especially important now to make full use of the rich possibilities provided in the competition, which has been mounted this training year under the motto "For Lofty Combat Readiness and Firm Regulation Order."

Army Gen A. Yepishev dwelt in detail in his speech on questions of strengthening troop discipline and regulation order. He stressed the indissoluble link between good organization, a high level of implementation and combat readiness.

Exactingness with respect to steadfast implementation of measures to strengthen discipline and to fulfill regulation demands with precision must be increased at all levels, effectiveness of political and troop education must be increased, the reasons for deviations from established order must be more deeply analyzed, and a course must be pursued toward strengthening the responsibility of communist leaders, including staff and directorate personnel, for the efficient organization of military service.

Speaking of the multifaceted nature of the task of further heightening troops' combat readiness, Army Gen A. Yepishev dwelt on questions of improving the troops' daily life. The party, he said, regards concern for man as paramount. Every instance of an inattentive or--worse--an indifferent attitude to personnel's needs and of inability to resolve questions of everyday routine correctly should be resolutely condemned.

In resolving all tasks the chief element is increasing cadres' responsibility. It is necessary to strengthen executive discipline at all levels and in all links, tighten control and the requirement to fulfill party Central Committee resolutions, defense minister's orders and directives and self-originated decisions, and ensure that officer cadres set an example in service, behavior and everyday life.

It is impossible to resolve the tasks facing troops without strengthening the leadership of ideological, political and educational work and consistently fulfilling the demands of the CPSU Central Committee resolution on these questions. It is important to ensure that every party organization becomes in fact the center of daily ideological and educational activity, the collectives' political nucleus.

In conclusion Army Gen A. Yepishev conveyed to the delegates and all district personnel good wishes for success from Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, and expressed confidence that the Transbaykal servicemen will mark the 26th party congress with high achievements in socialist competition and successfully fulfill the tasks of the training year.

Taking part in the work of the party conference were I. Larin, deputy sector chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, and secretaries of a number of obkoms.